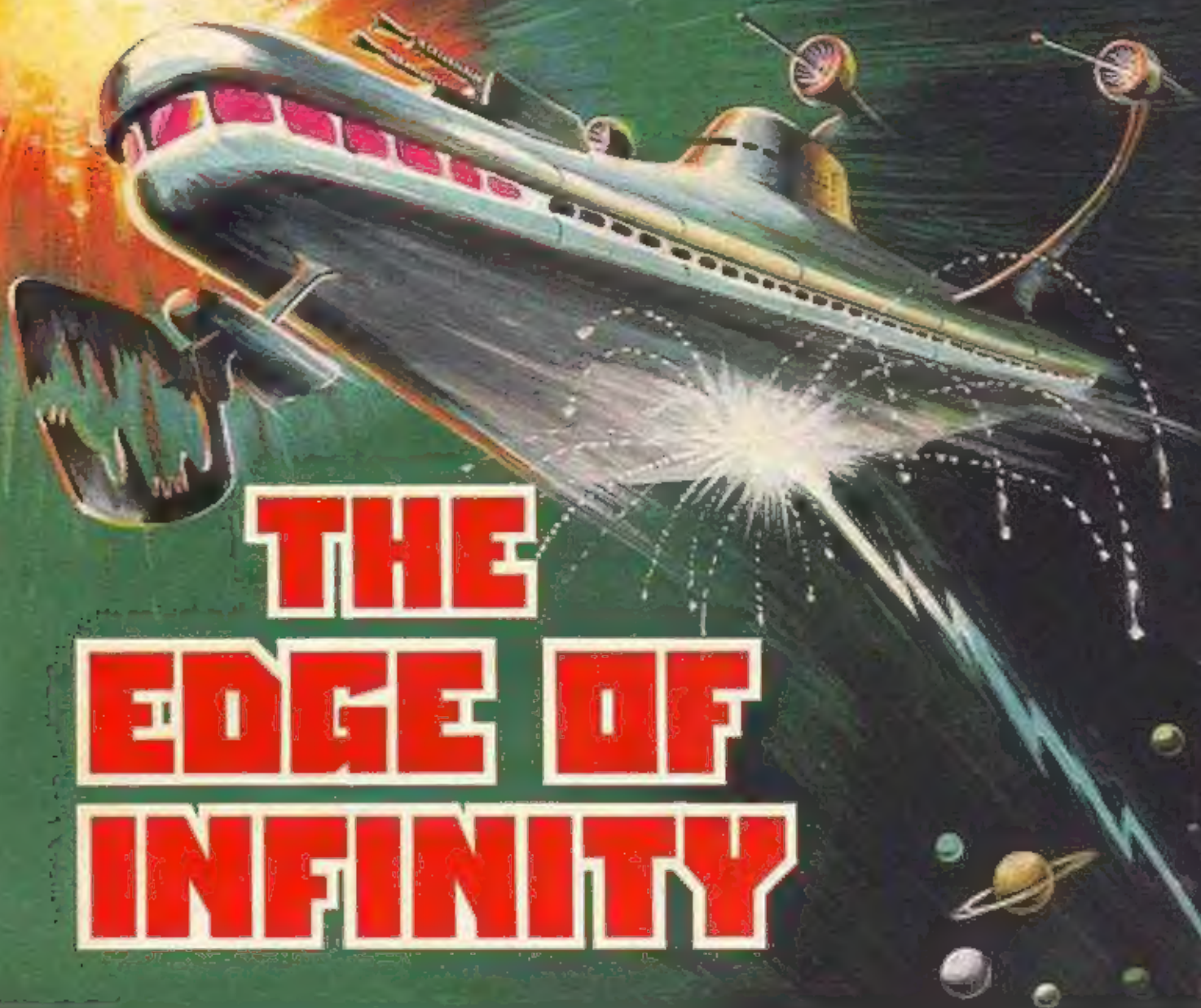


# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No.4

12p

AUS 40c NZ



## THE EDGE OF INFINITY



# STARBLAZER



With the Galactic Union of Earth desperately short of fuel, survey vessels were sent out to locate new sources. That was when the Barrier was discovered—an impenetrable forcefield millions of miles from Earth on the Galactic Rim. No one knew why it was there, or who had put it there. All that Earth's computers knew was that a planet called Fratri contained an almost inexhaustible fuel source . . . and it was on the other side of the Barrier—on The Edge of Infinity.

# THE EDGE OF INFINITY

MAYDAY! MAYDAY! SURVEY TWO...  
REQUEST AUTOMATIC LANDING  
BEAM... GRADE A EMERGENCY.



A GALACTIC UNION SURVEY VESSEL  
LIMPED TOWARDS MARS.

4  
ON MARS, THE TRACKING BEAMS LOCKED  
FAST ON THE CRIPPLED CRAFT.

MESSAGE RECEIVED  
... WE HAVE  
ENERGISED  
LANDING BEAM  
... PLEASE  
SWITCH TO  
AUTOMATIC.



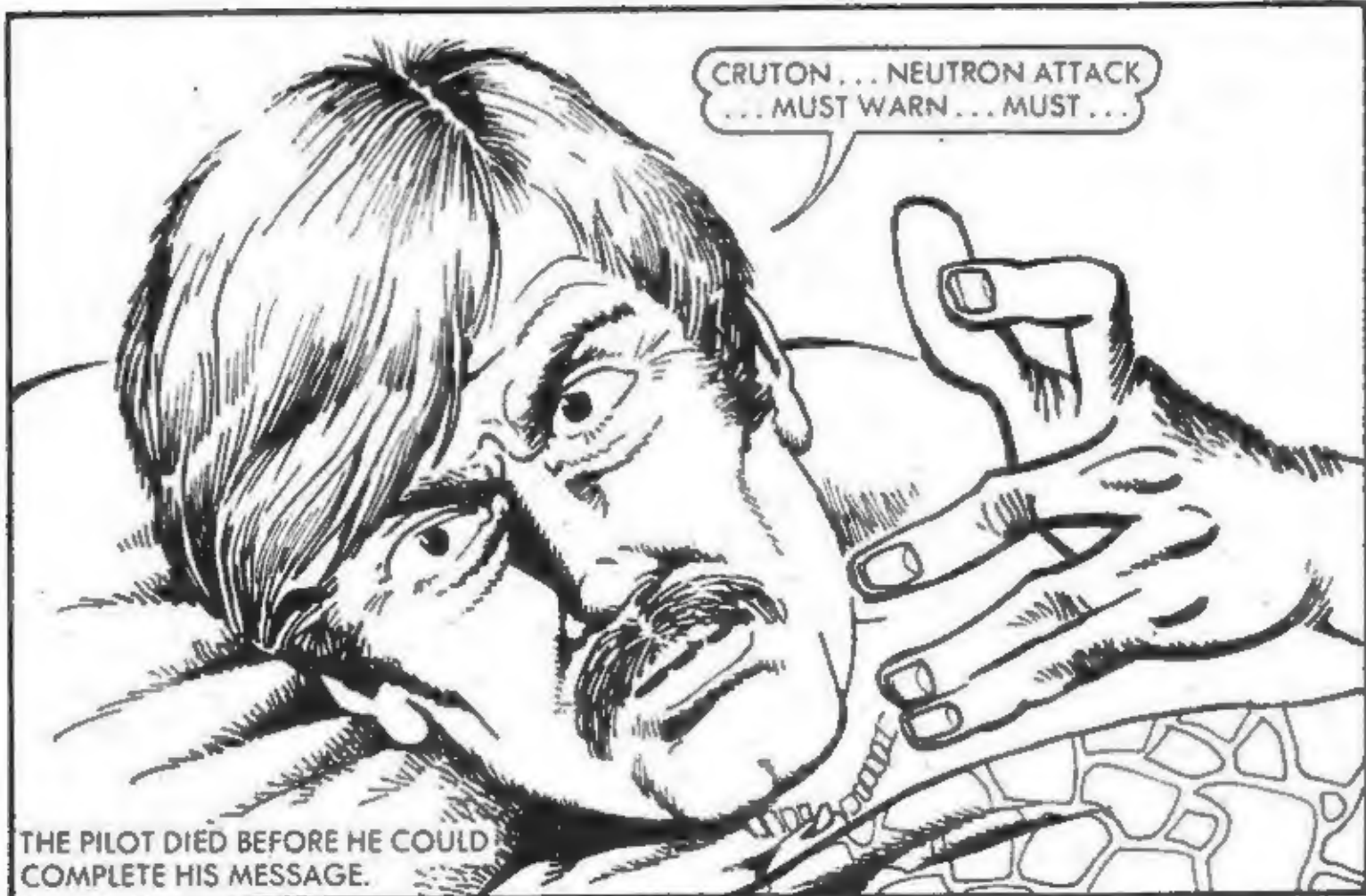
THE BEAM BROUGHT THE SHIP  
SAFELY TO PRIMEBASE.

HE'S IN A BAD WAY.  
THE REST OF THE CREW  
ARE DEAD.

WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED  
THIS?





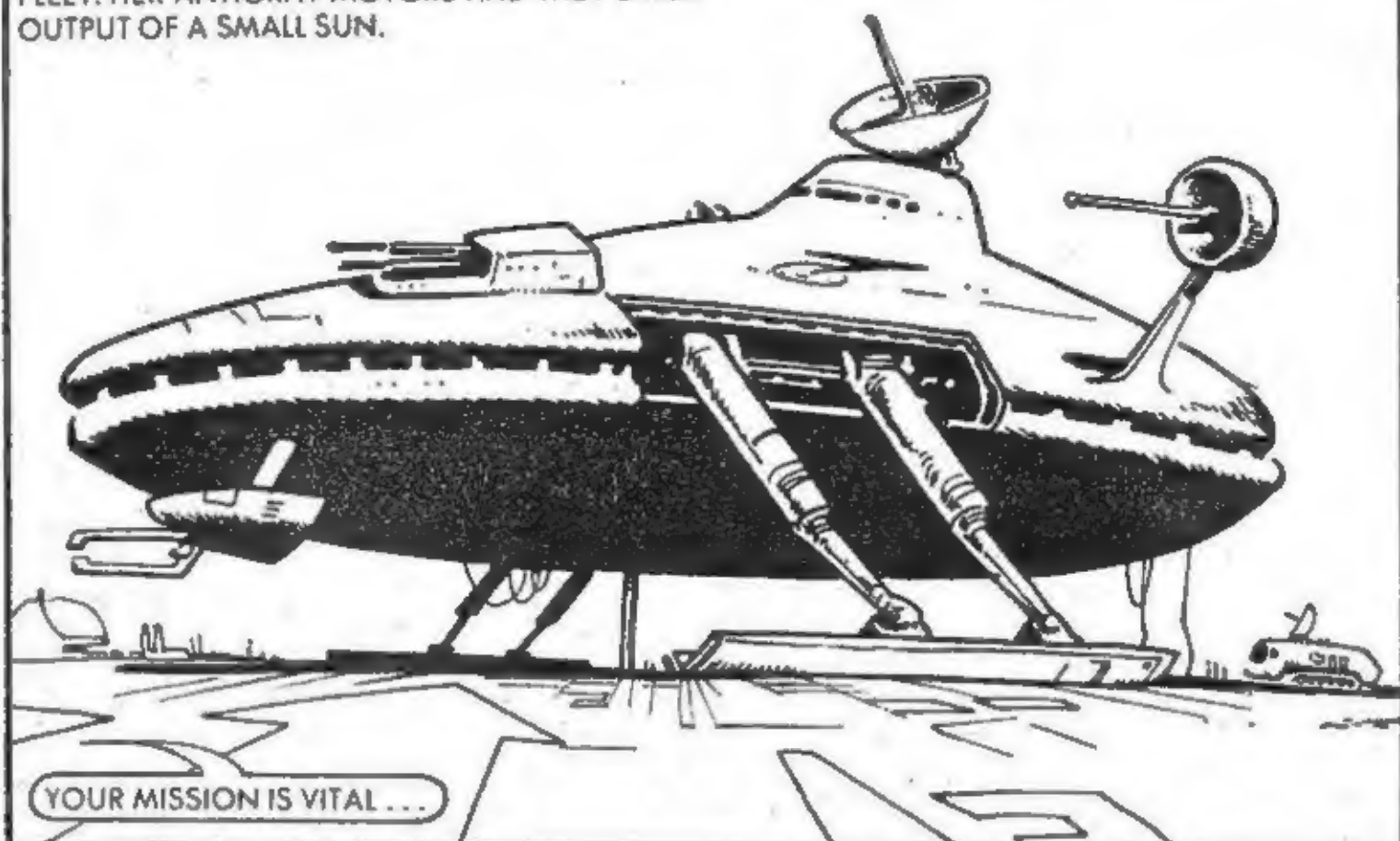


THE PILOT DIED BEFORE HE COULD  
COMPLETE HIS MESSAGE.

THE PRIMEBASE COMMANDER IMMEDIATELY SUMMONED HIS TOP SPACECRAFT CAPTAIN.



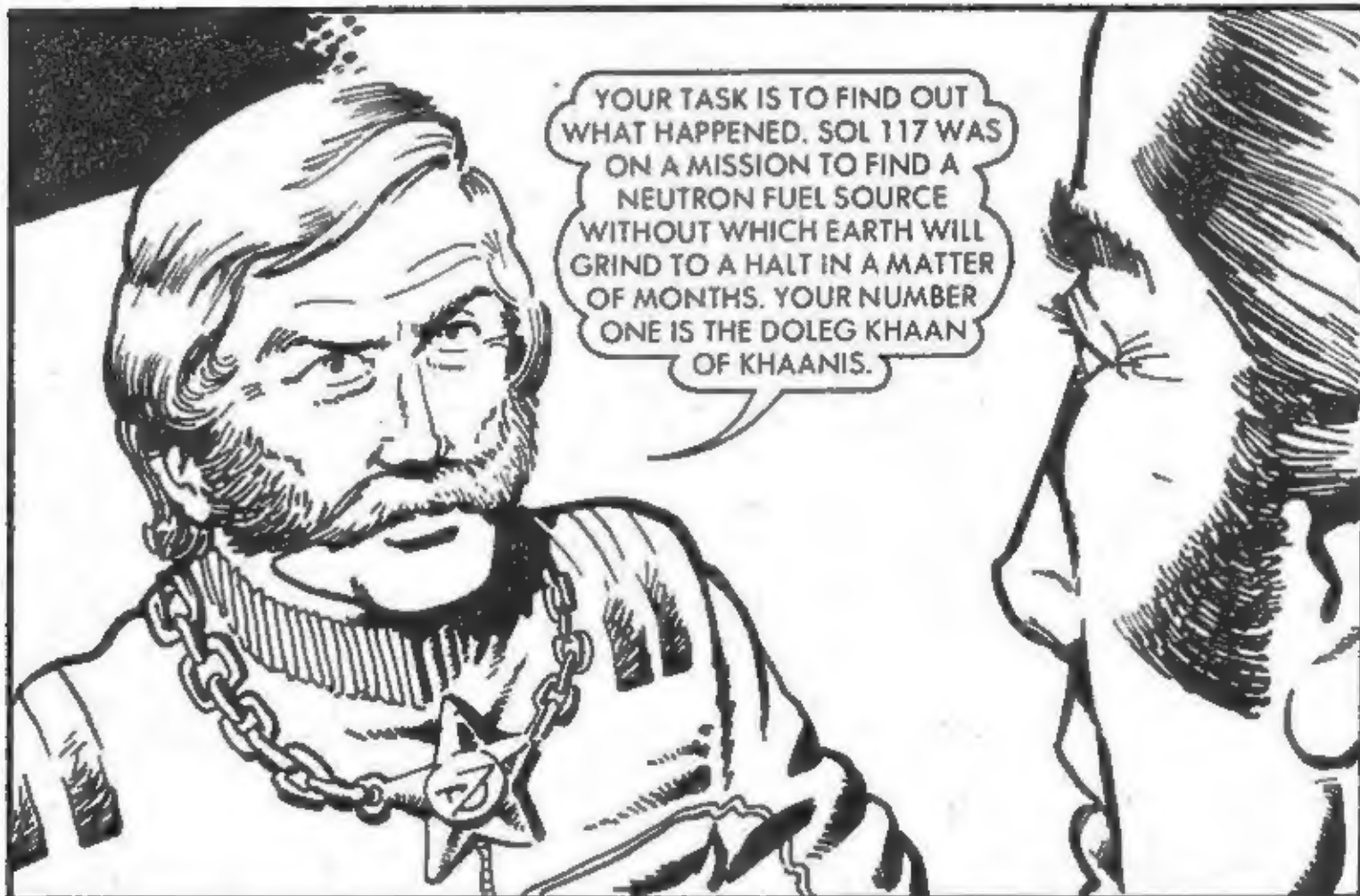
SEEKER, SUPERVESSEL OF THE GALACTIC UNION FLEET. HER ANTIGRAV MOTORS HAD THE POWER OUTPUT OF A SMALL SUN.



... SOL 117'S TAPES SHOW THAT SHE WAS DAMAGED BY A BURST OF NEUTRON ENERGY BIGGER THAN ANYTHING WE COULD MUSTER... AND THE BLAST CAME FROM BEYOND THE BARRIER.



THE BARRIER WAS AN IMPENETRABLE FORCE FIELD ON THE RIM OF THE GALAXY.

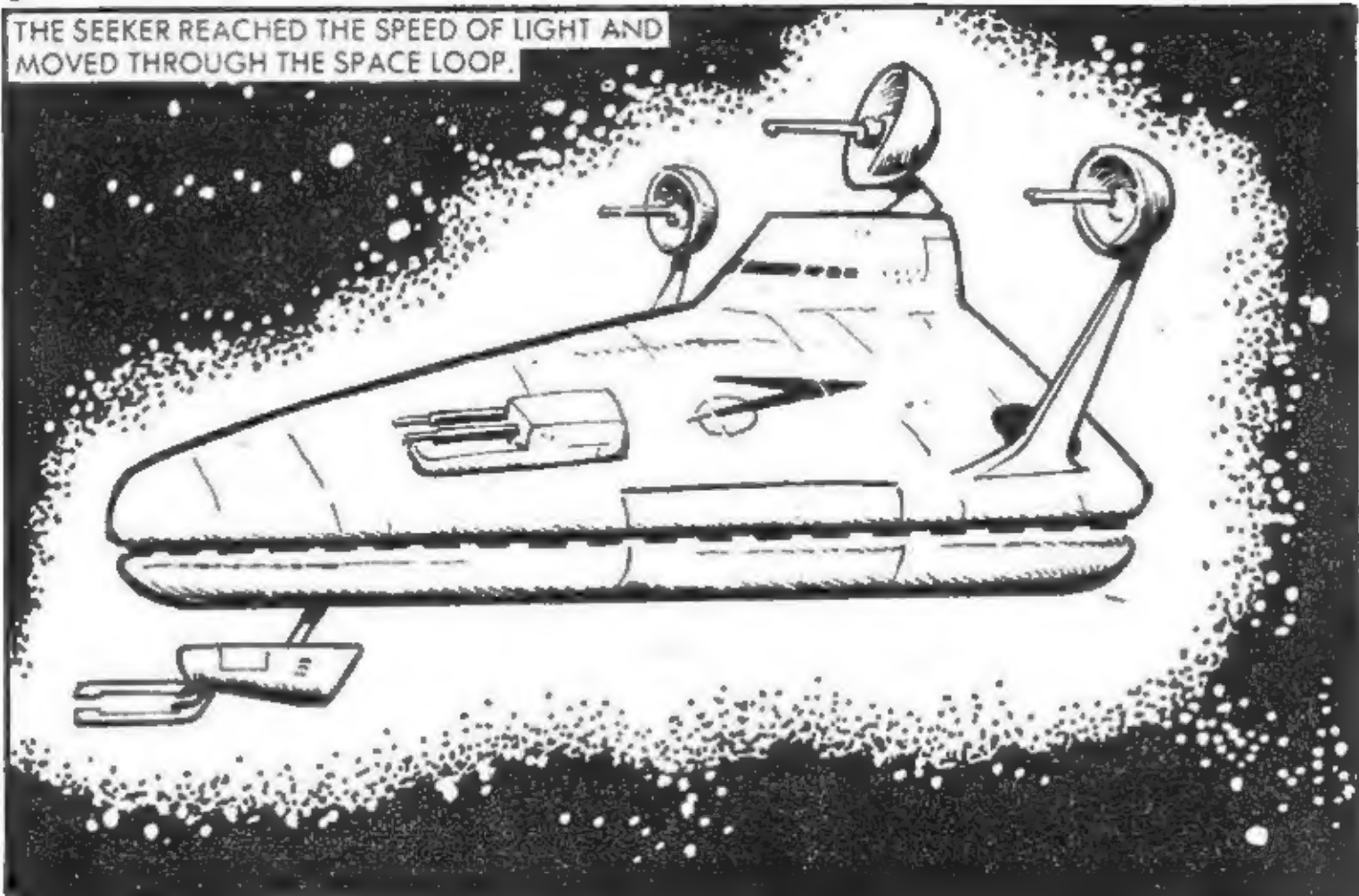


LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER JORGON PUT THE SHIP INTO ITS BLAST-OFF SEQUENCE.





THE SEEKER REACHED THE SPEED OF LIGHT AND  
MOVED THROUGH THE SPACE LOOP.



WE ARE APPROACHING THE BARRIER. RUN UP  
THE DEFENCE SCREENS. IT IS HERE THAT SOL 117  
WAS ATTACKED LIKE THESE OTHER DERELICT  
SHIPS. WHY?

IT IS ONE OF SPACE'S MYSTERIES.  
WE KNOW THAT THE PLANETS  
BEYOND THE BARRIER ARE  
PEACEFUL... SO WHO WOULD  
ATTACK GALACTIC UNION SHIPS.





9  
A SEARING BLAST OF ANTI-MATTER ENERGY  
FROM SEEKER CUT INTO THE FORCE BARRIER.



I HOPE THIS WORKS! IF WE  
CAN'T FIND A WAY  
THROUGH WITH THIS  
ANTI-MATTER BEAM, THEN  
EARTH IS DOOMED.

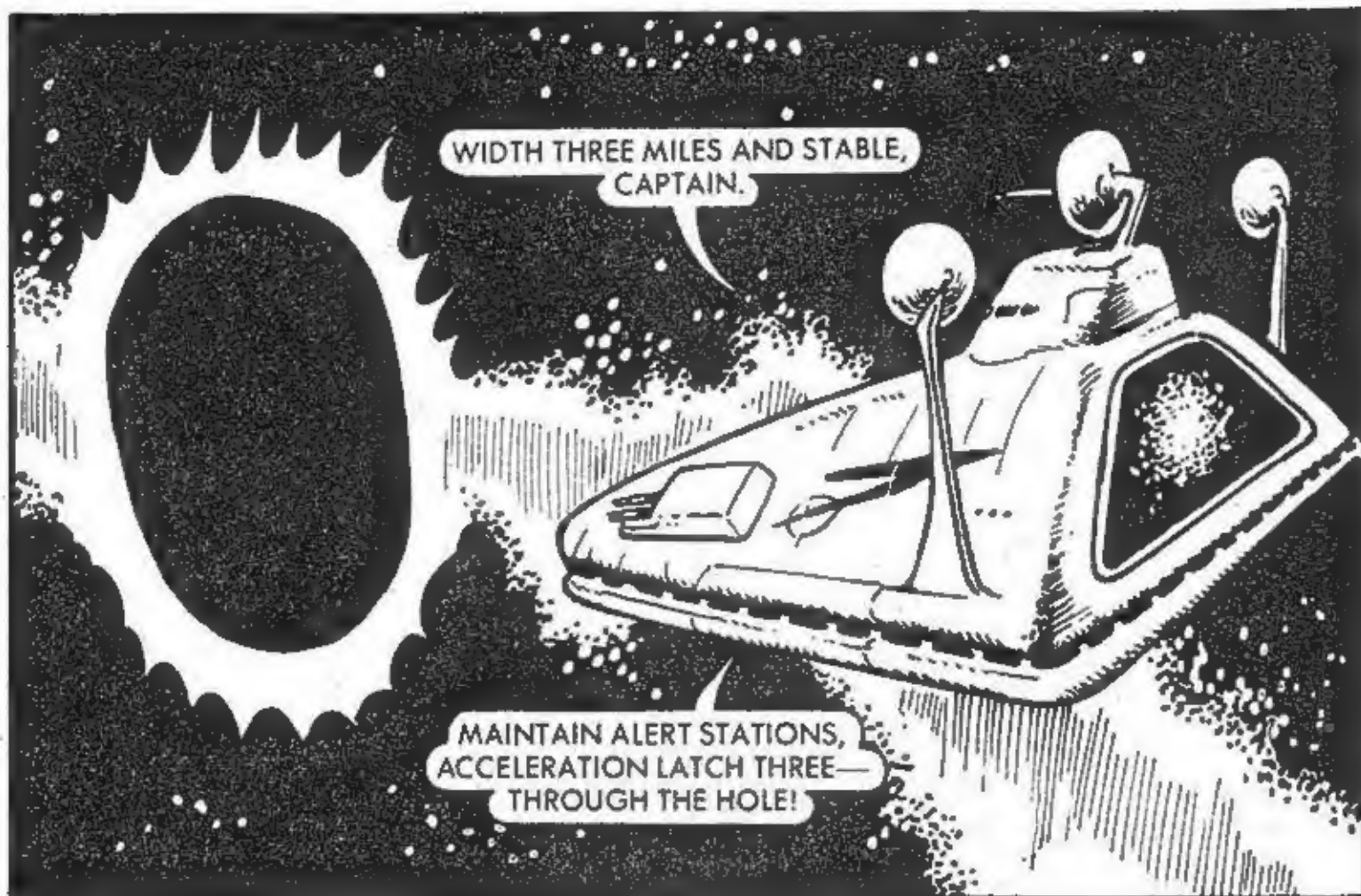
SOMETHING'S  
HAPPENING, SKIPPER.



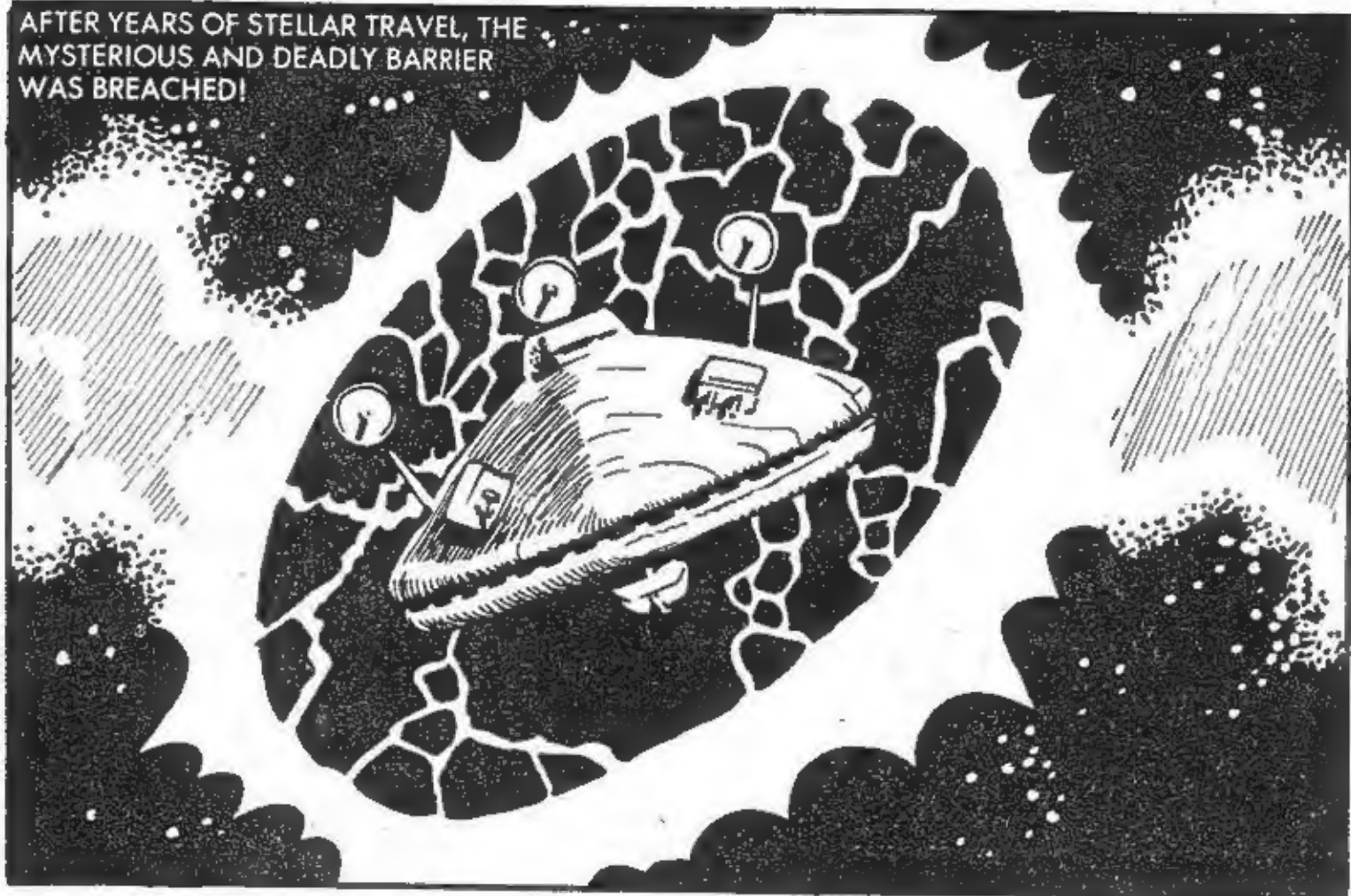
THE BARRIER'S  
OPENING! CEASE  
PROJECTION. REPORT,  
MR KHAAN.

WIDTH THREE MILES AND STABLE,  
CAPTAIN.

MAINTAIN ALERT STATIONS,  
ACCELERATION LATCH THREE—  
THROUGH THE HOLE!



AFTER YEARS OF STELLAR TRAVEL, THE MYSTERIOUS AND DEADLY BARRIER WAS BREACHED!



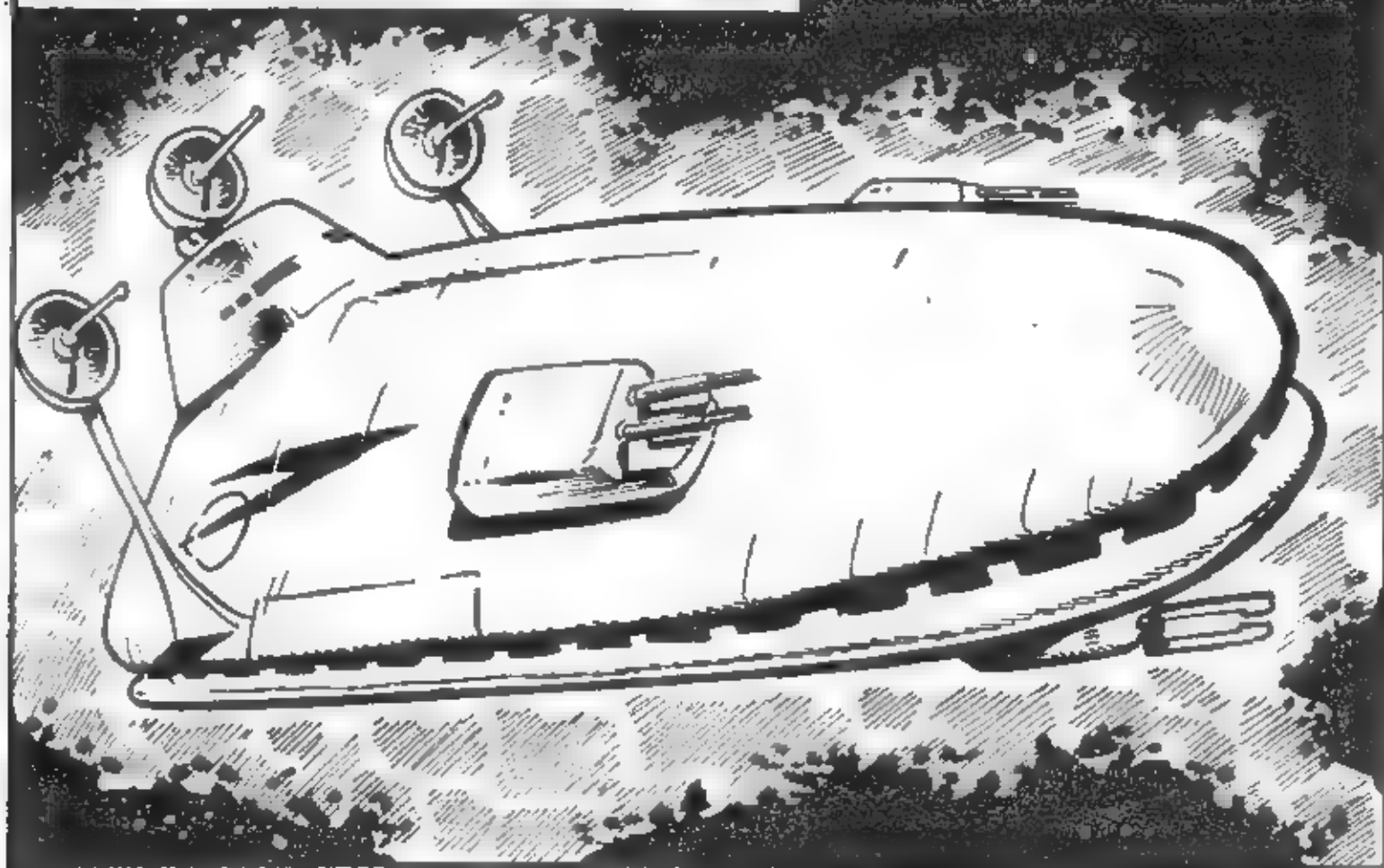
CAPTAIN! LOOK AT THIS! ALL READINGS ARE NOW NEGATIVE. EVERYTHING IS ELECTRICALLY REVERSED.

WE HAVE ENTERED STRANGE SPACE, MR KHAAN.





SUDDENLY SEEKER WAS BLASTED BY A VIOLENT FORCE.



INTENSE NEUTRON ATTACK, CAPTAIN.  
ALIEN SHIP ON THE STARBOARD  
QUARTER.



RUN STANDARD  
IDENTIFICATION SIGNAL.  
ALL STATIONS AWAIT MY  
ORDER.

A HORRIBLE FACE APPEARED ON THE VID-SCREEN.

IDENTIFY YOURSELF,  
ALIEN.

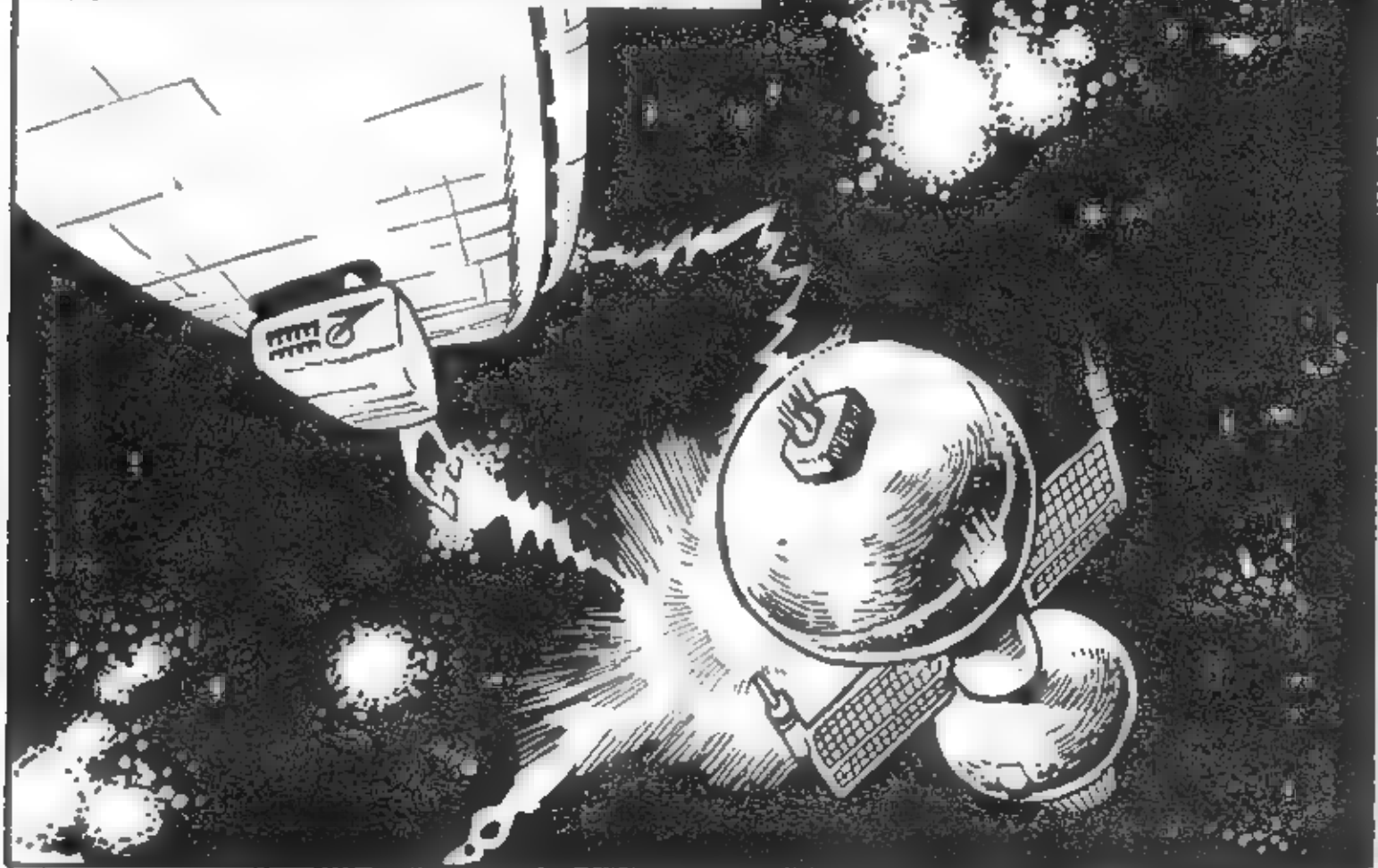
YOU ARE VIOLATING CRUTON  
SPACE. SURRENDER OR YOU WILL  
BE DESTROYED.

SOL 117'S PILOT SPOKE OF  
'CRUTON' BEFORE HE DIED.  
IF THESE ALIENS ATTACKED  
HIM THEY MUST BE ABLE TO  
PENETRATE THE BARRIER.

WE ARE HERE TO FIND A  
NEUTRON SOURCE  
PEACEFULLY... NOT TO  
FIGHT BUT IF YOU THINK  
YOU'RE GOING TO  
DESTROY US WITHOUT  
A FIGHT—YOU'RE  
WRONG.




THE CRUTON OPENED FIRE AND SEEKER RETALIATED.



OUR WEAPON HAS NO EFFECT. THEY LASH US WITH ALL THEY HAVE AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

THE OUTER SCREEN'S GONE. NUMBER TWO IS UNSTABLE. THE HULL IS OVERHEATING!





ACCELERATION LATCH TEN. THE UNION DEPENDS ON OUR RETURN. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FIGHT UNTIL WE HAVE AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF TAKING ON THE CRUTON.

SEEKER HEADED FOR THE DEPTHS OF ALIEN SPACE WITH EVERY OUNCE OF POWER, OUTPACING THE ALIEN SHIP.

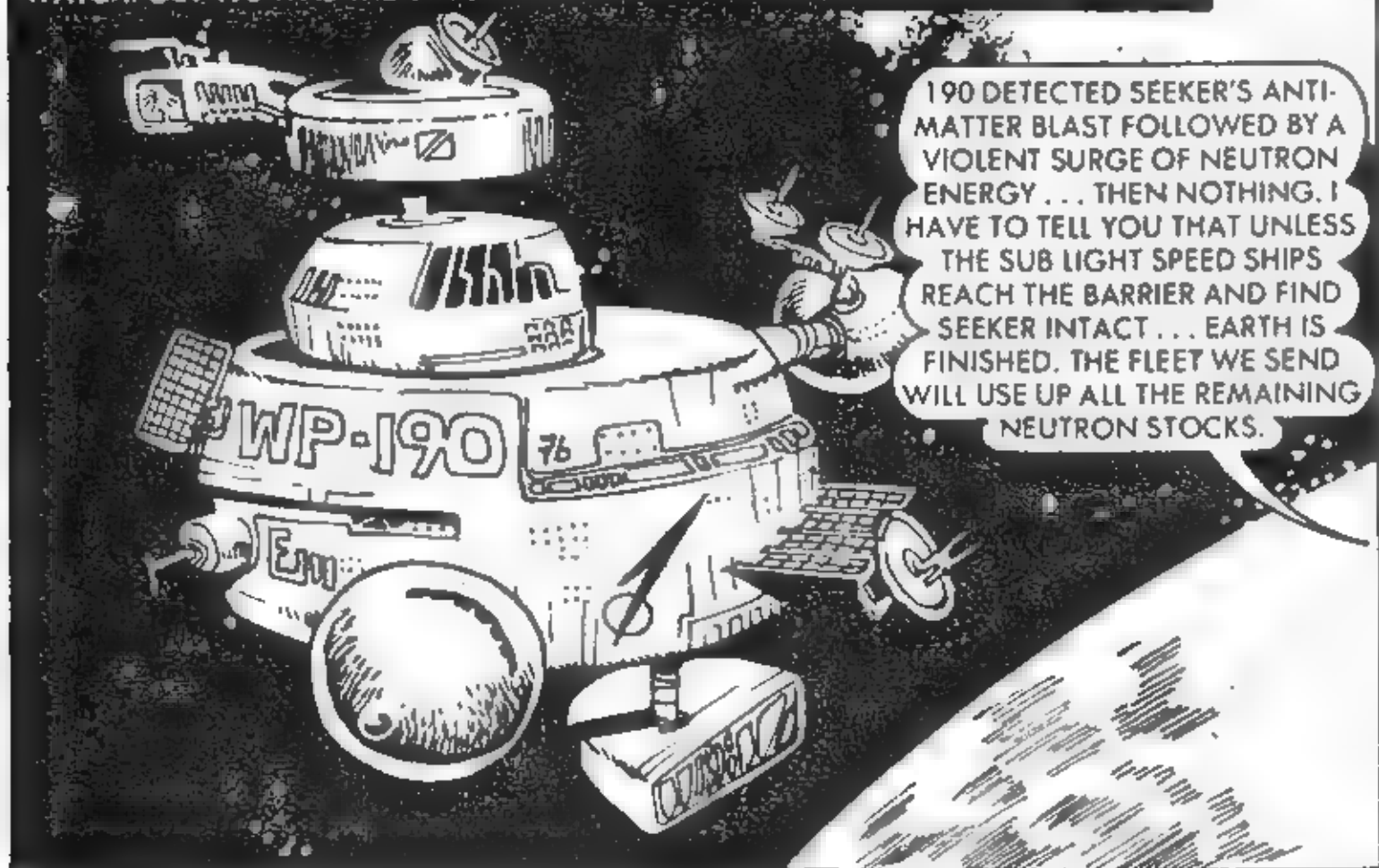
AT MARS PRIMEBASE A CONFERENCE WAS IN PROGRESS.



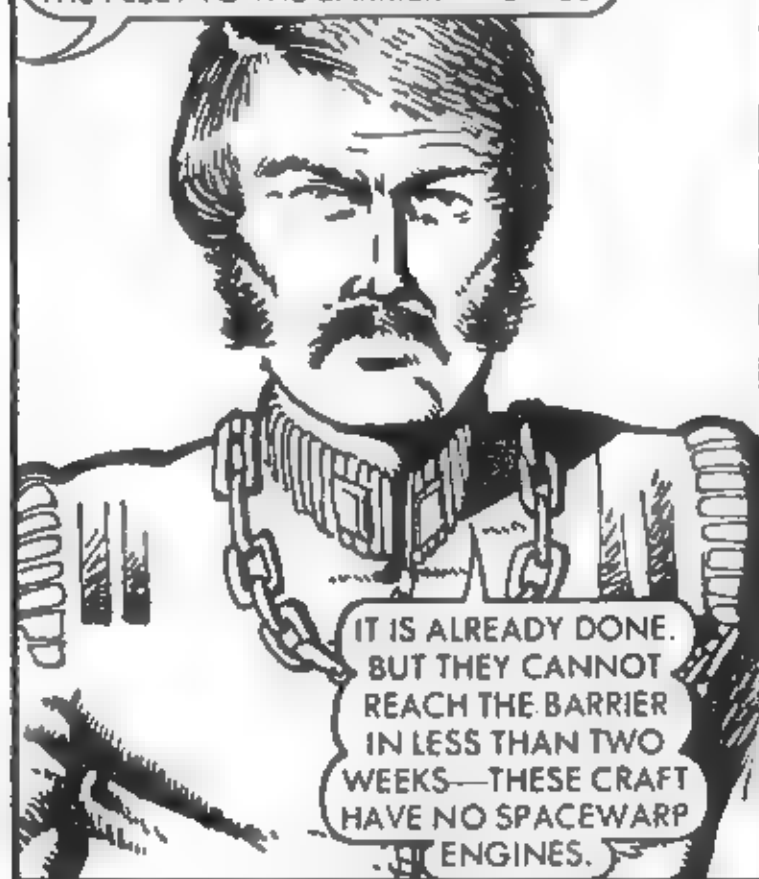
GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE LOST TRACK OF SEEKER!



WATCHPOST 190 WAS THE UNION'S EAGLE EYE AT THE EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.



IF SEEKER HAS FAILED WE ARE DOOMED ANYWAY. WE MUST SEND THE FLEET TO THE BARRIER AT ONCE.



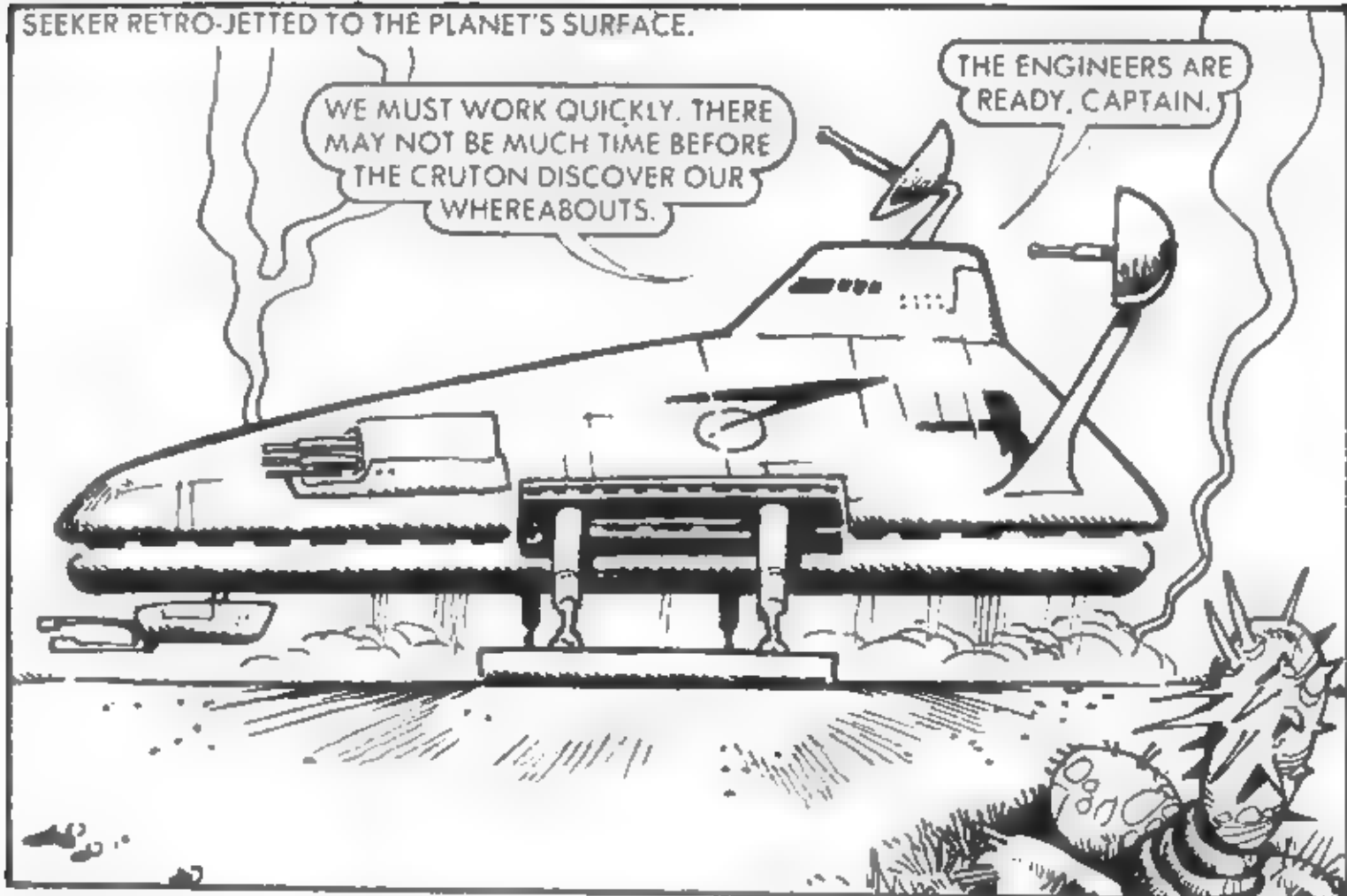
TWO WEEK'S JOURNEY AWAY...



SEEKER RETRO-JETTED TO THE PLANET'S SURFACE.

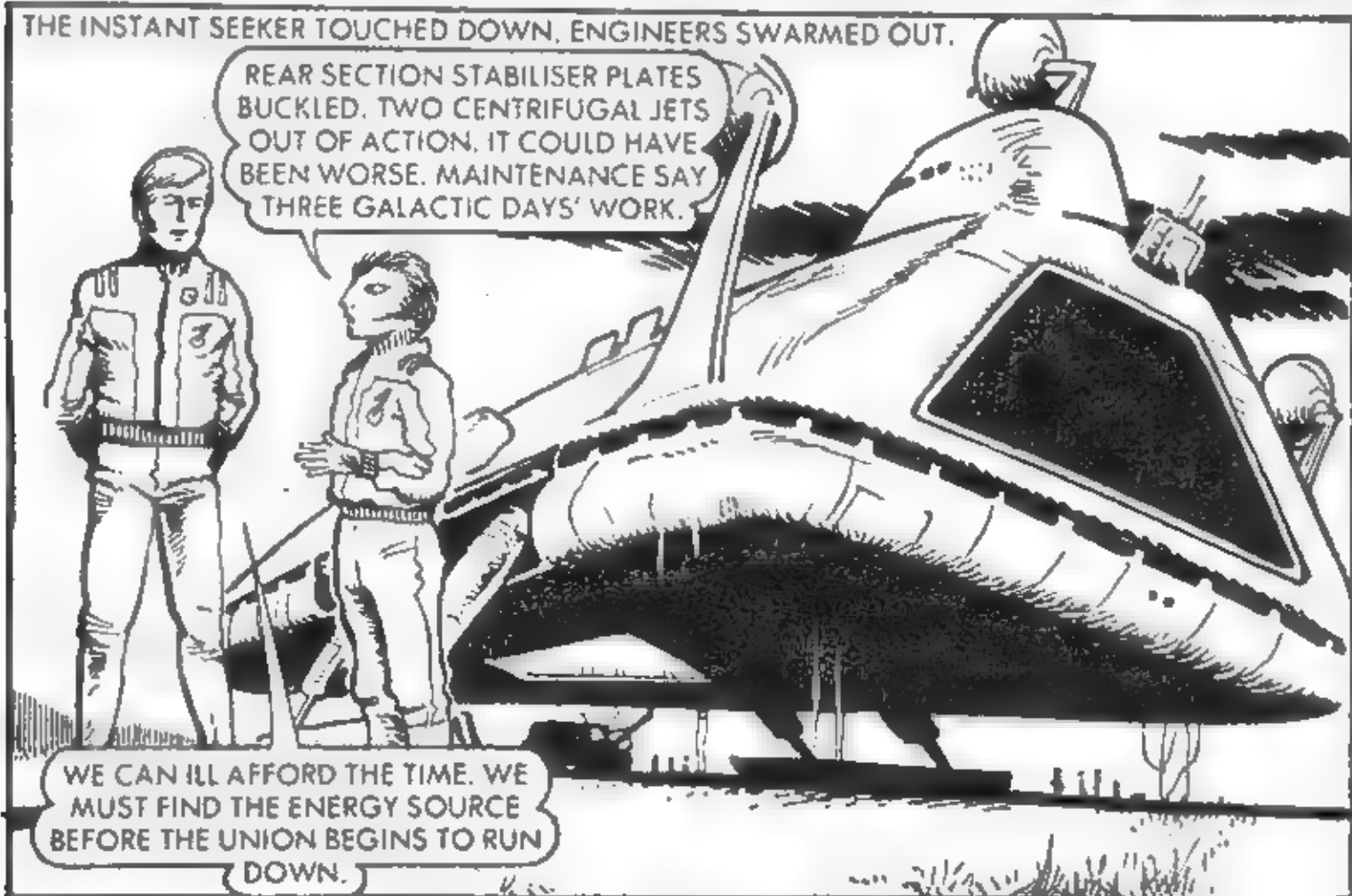
WE MUST WORK QUICKLY. THERE MAY NOT BE MUCH TIME BEFORE THE CRUTON DISCOVER OUR WHEREABOUTS.

THE ENGINEERS ARE READY, CAPTAIN.




THE INSTANT SEEKER TOUCHED DOWN, ENGINEERS SWARMED OUT.

REAR SECTION STABILISER PLATES BUCKLED. TWO CENTRIFUGAL JETS OUT OF ACTION. IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE. MAINTENANCE SAY THREE GALACTIC DAYS' WORK.



WE CAN ILL AFFORD THE TIME. WE MUST FIND THE ENERGY SOURCE BEFORE THE UNION BEGINS TO RUN DOWN.



CAPTAIN! WE HAVE DETECTED MOVEMENT  
IN THE HILLS. A NUMBER OF SMALL GROUND  
VEHICLES PROPELLED BY A NON-ATOMIC FUEL.

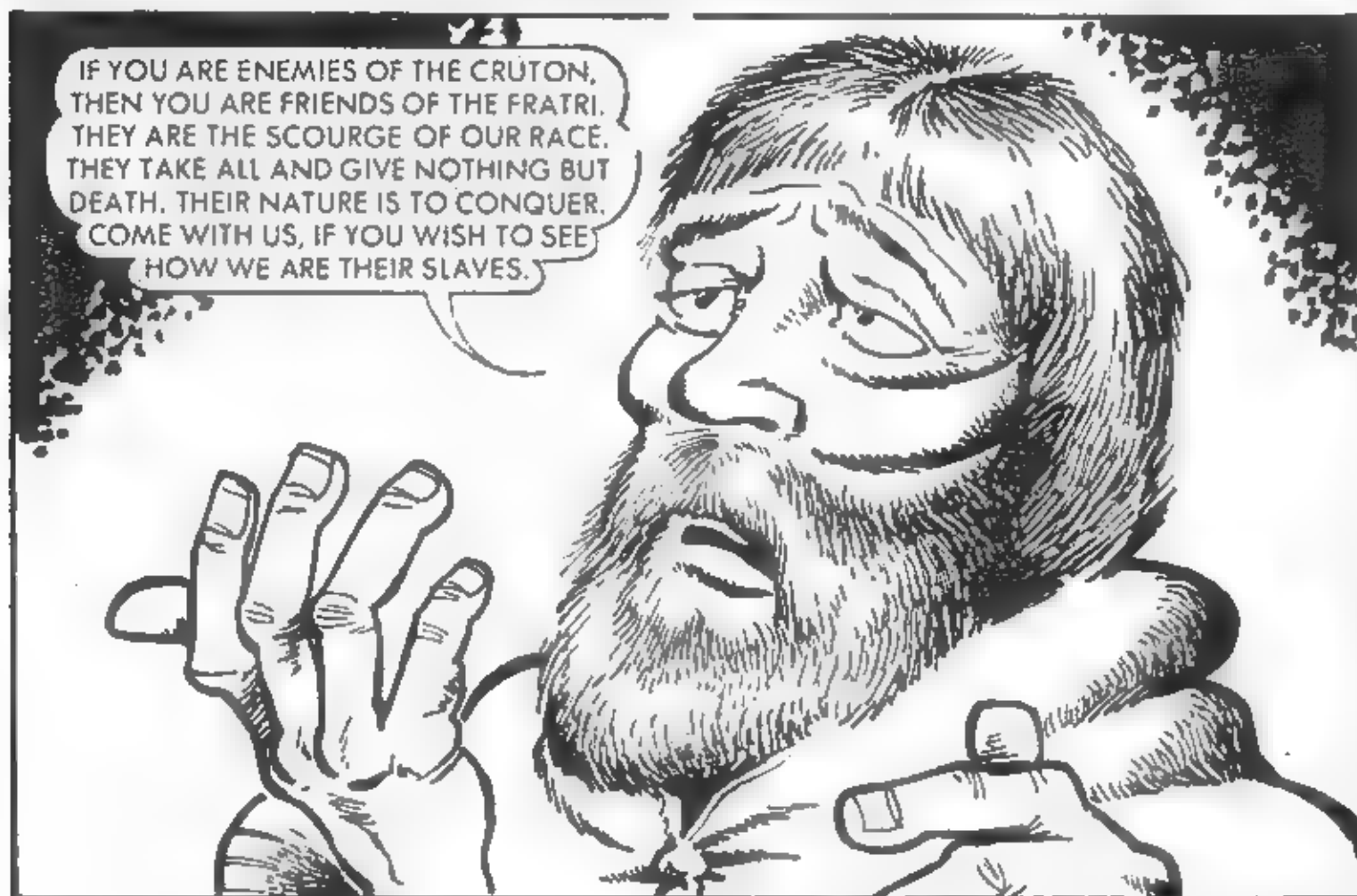
INSIDE EVERYONE! ALERT  
STATIONS!

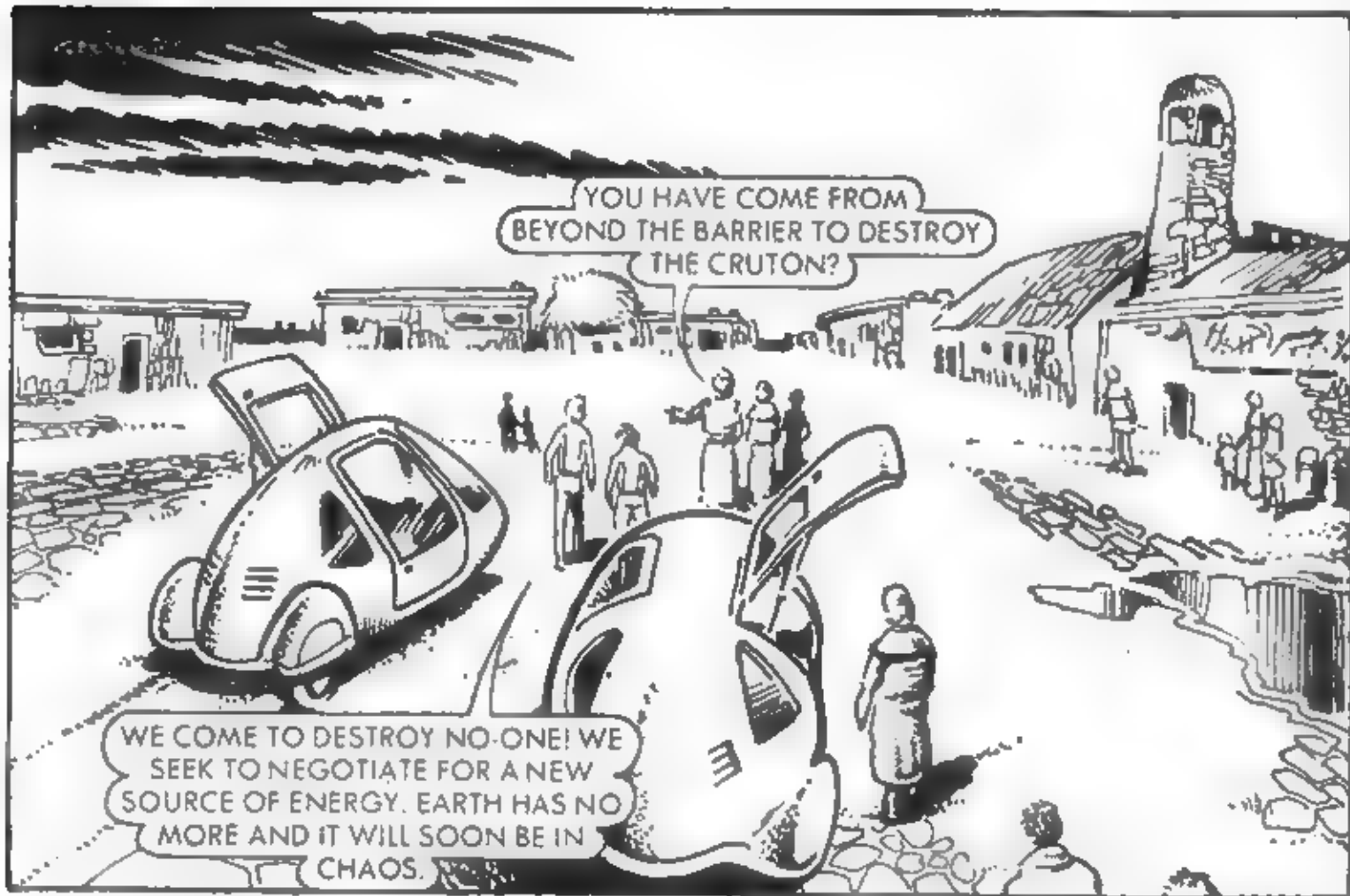
A TRIO OF STRANGELY DRESSED ALIENS DULY ARRIVED.

IDENTIFY YOURSELVES.

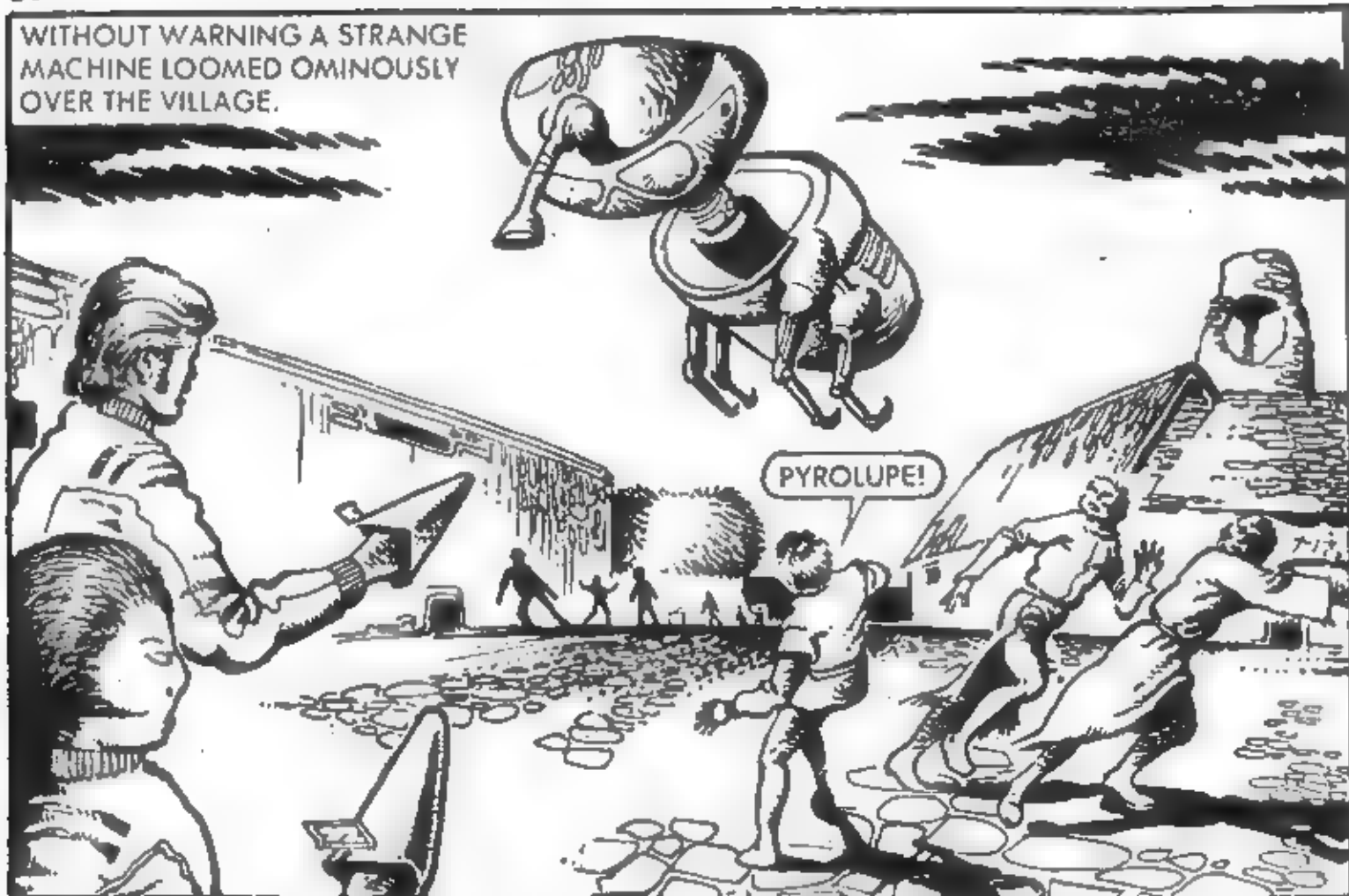
PEACE TO YOU. WE ARE  
FRATRI. WHAT DO YOU WISH  
OF US?







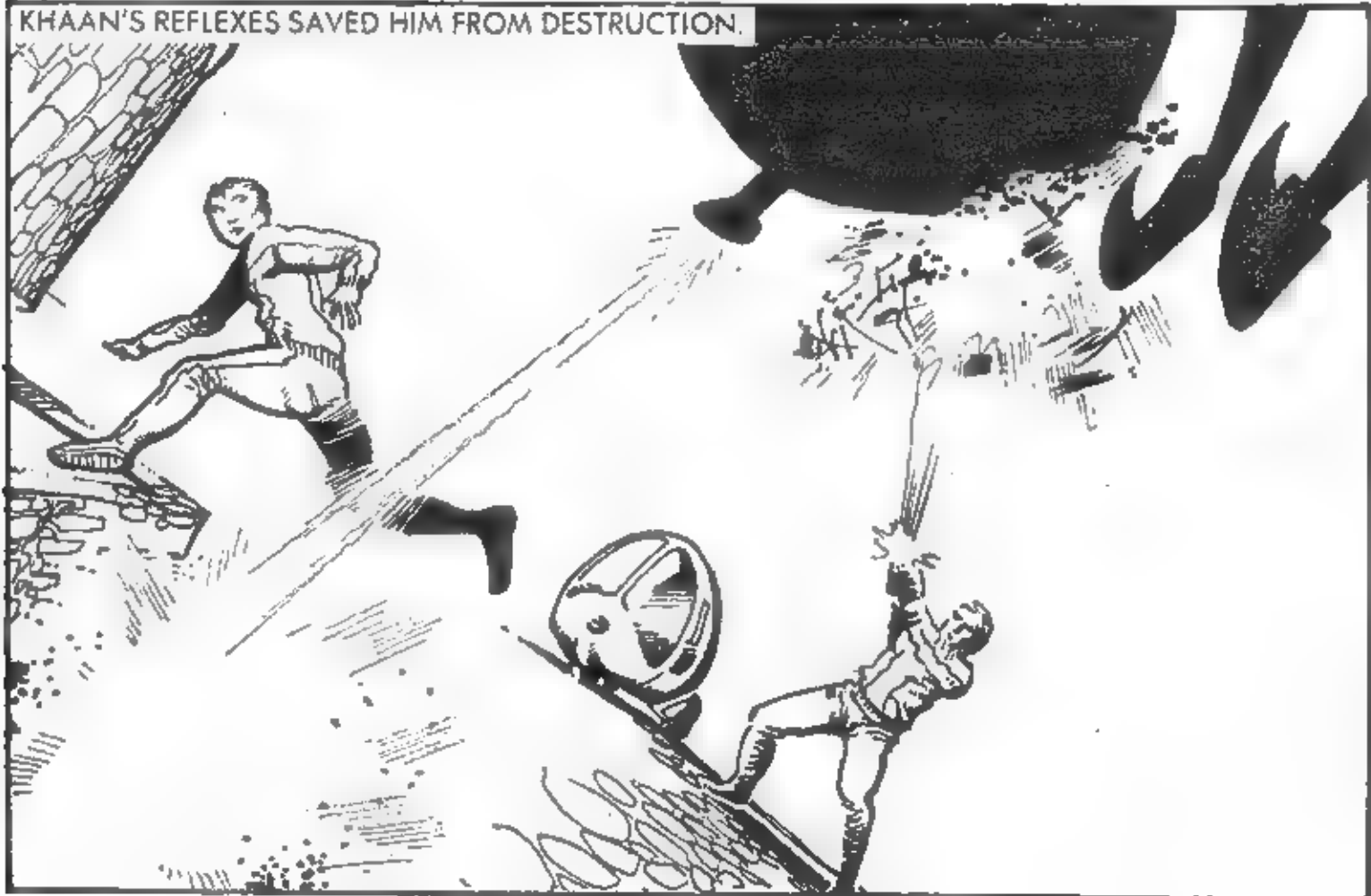
WITHOUT WARNING A STRANGE  
MACHINE LOOMED OMINOUSLY  
OVER THE VILLAGE.







KHAAN'S REFLEXES SAVED HIM FROM DESTRUCTION.





LATER, ON BOARD SEEKER.



WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO DELAY THEM! MR KHAAN AND I WILL GO TO CRUTA AND INVESTIGATE THEIR STRENGTH.

I WILL COME WITH YOU!

LYX, KHAAN AND MONCAP HEADED FOR CRUTA IN ONE OF SEEKER'S LIFEBOATS.

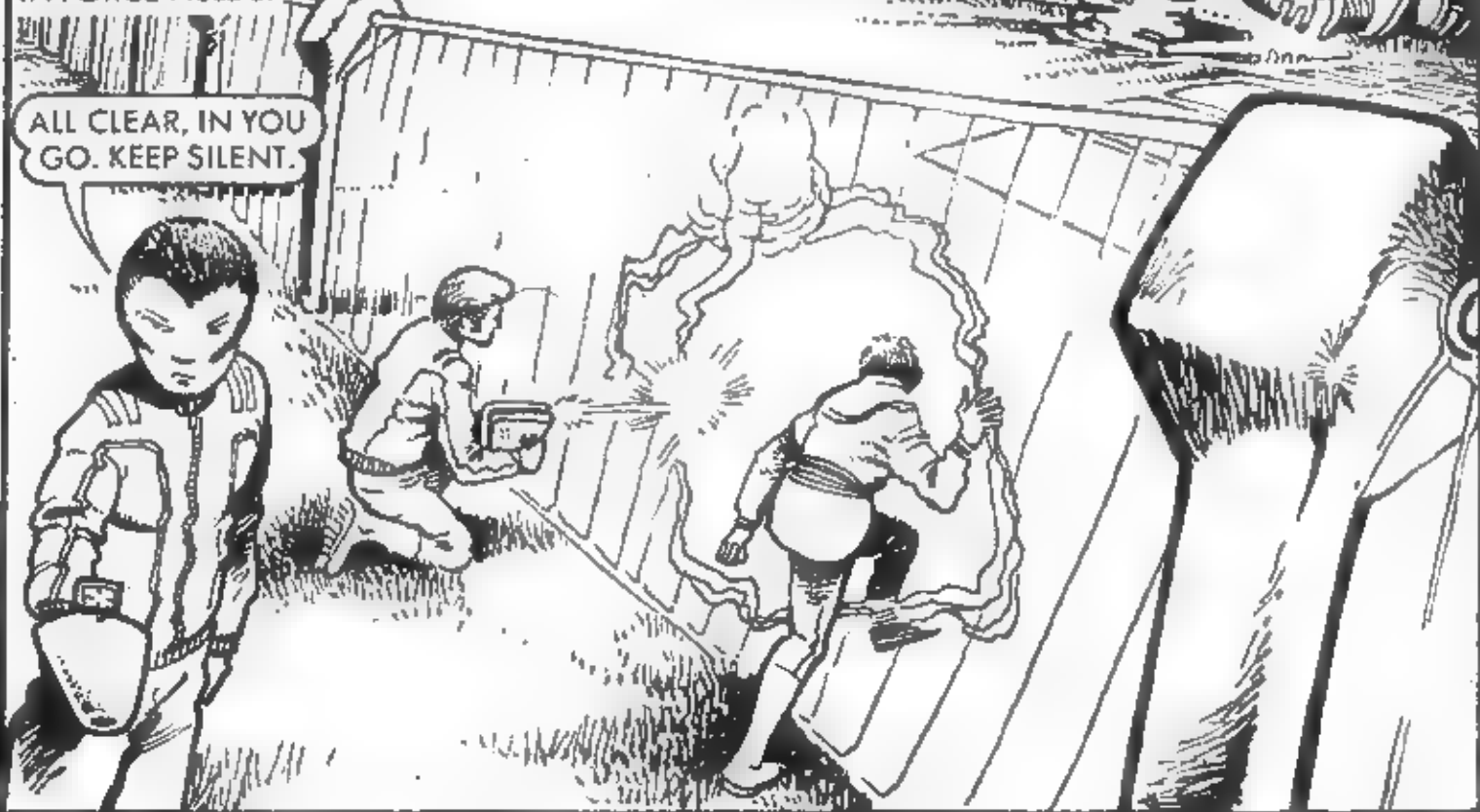
IT IS LUCKY THE LIFEBOAT CARRIES A SENSOR SCRAMBLER. THE CRUTON WILL NOT DETECT OUR APPROACH.



JORGON SLID PAST THE CRUTON SENSORS AND LANDED.



JORGON STARTED CUTTING THROUGH THE LASER FENCE WITH THE LASER NEUTRALISER ... A DEVICE THAT MADE SAFE HOLES IN FORCE FIELDS.



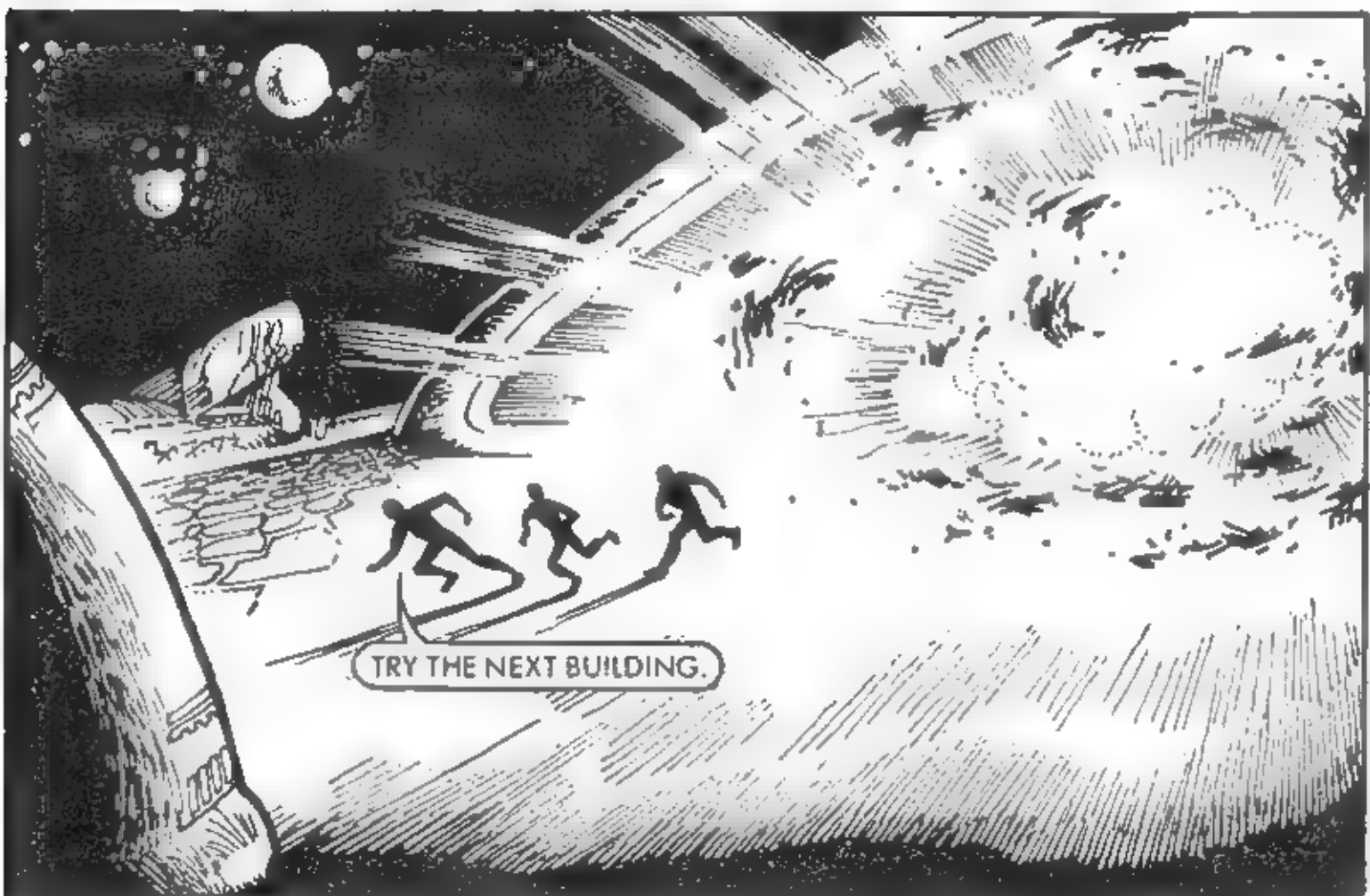
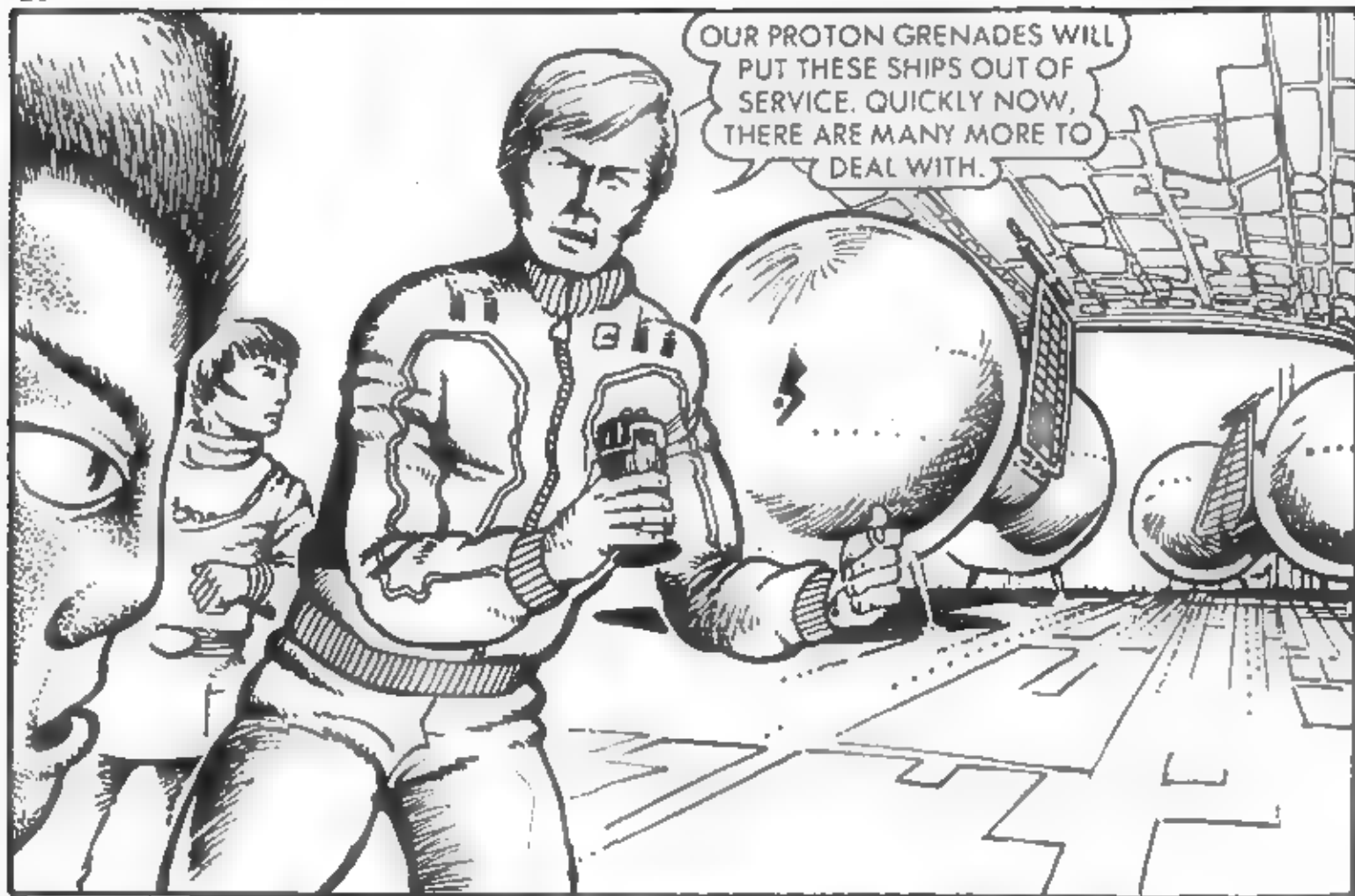
THE TRIO REACHED THE SPACEFLEET H.Q. UNDETECTED.

GUARD THESE SHIPS WELL. THEY  
WILL BE NEEDED WHEN THE  
FLEET IS ORDERED THROUGH  
THE BARRIER.

WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY,  
MAKE A HOLE IN THE ROOF.

THE GUARD WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

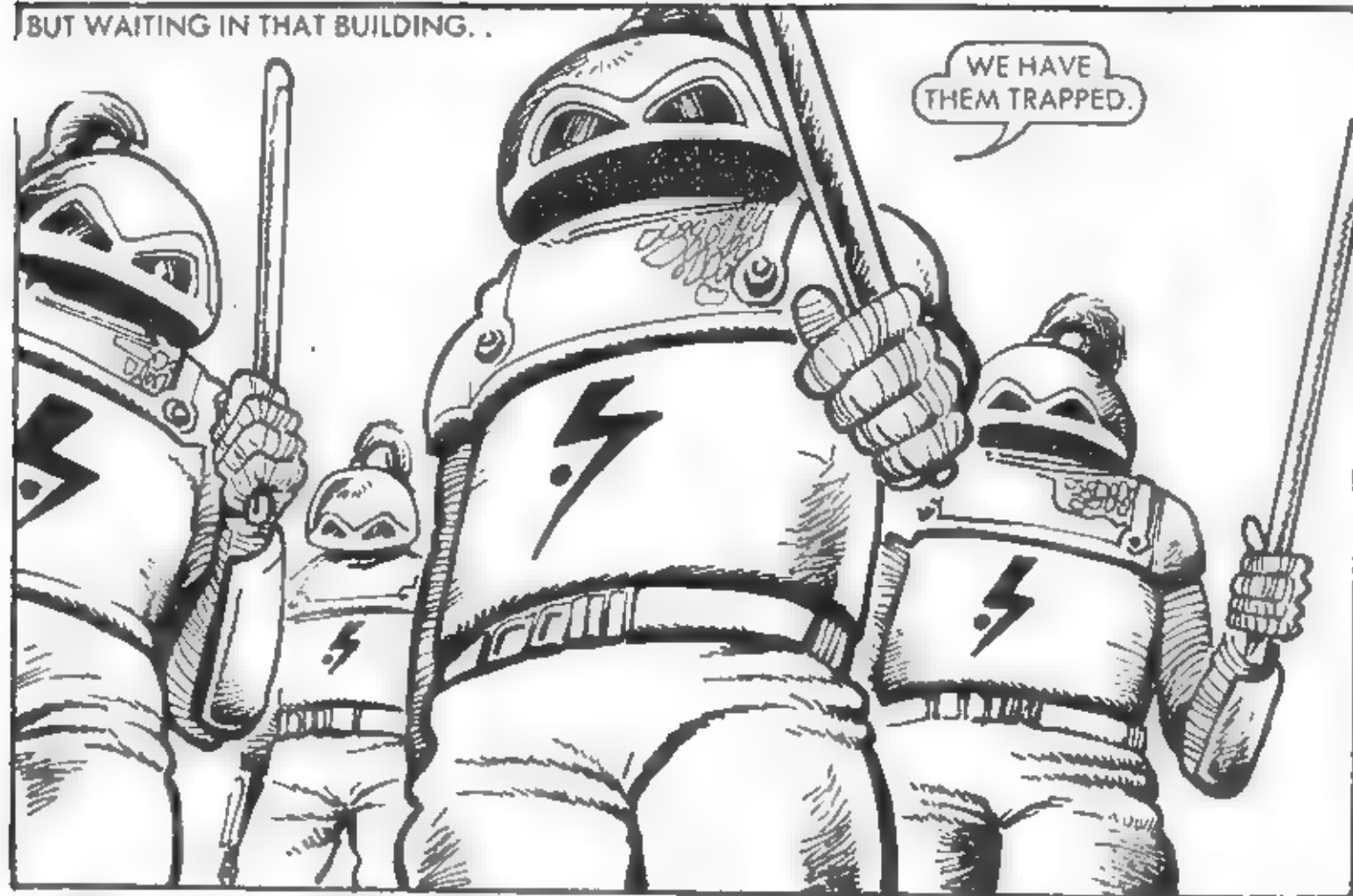
THAT'S ONE FOR THE  
FRATRI, ANIMAL!





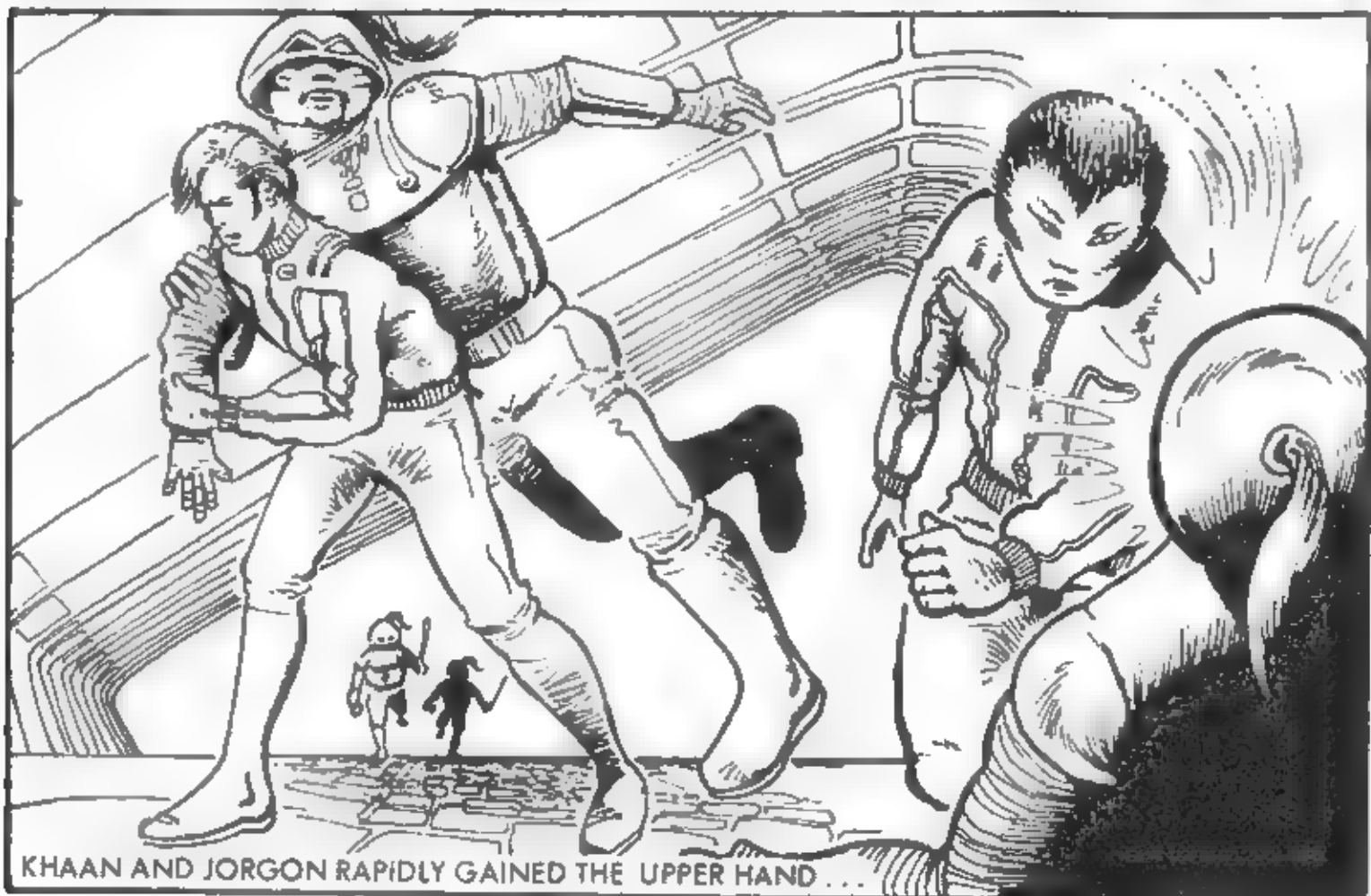
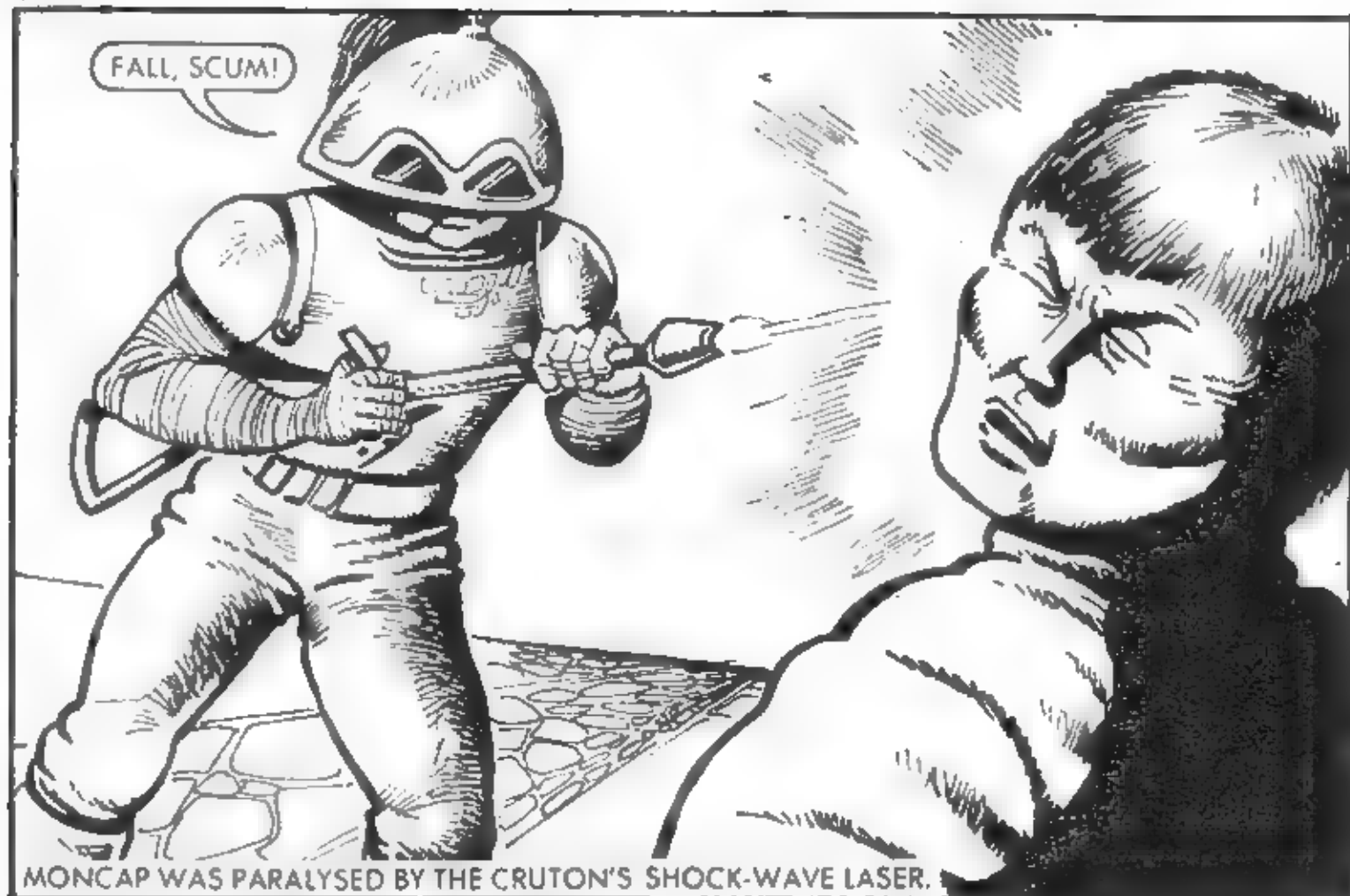
BUT WAITING IN THAT BUILDING. .

WE HAVE  
THEM TRAPPED.



NO YOU DON'T! BY  
GEMMAL, MY BLOWS  
DO NOT EVEN SHAKE  
HIM.





... UNTIL SUPERIOR NUMBERS TOOK THEIR TOLL.

MY HEAD! I AM GOING TO EXPLODE!



THE NIMBLE ONE ESCAPED  
BY JUMPING OVER US.

NEVER MIND! THE  
PYROLUPES WILL GET HIM.

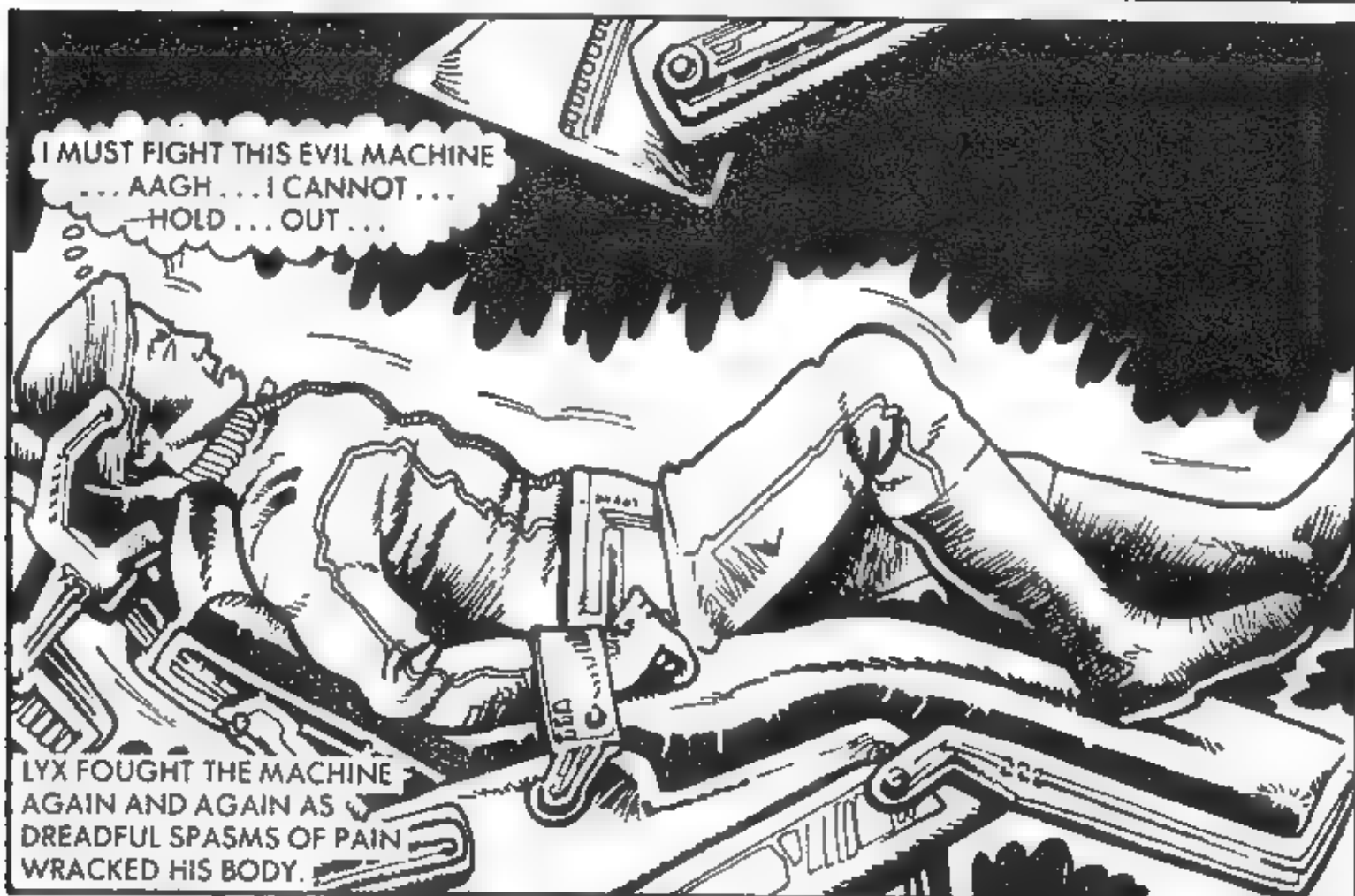
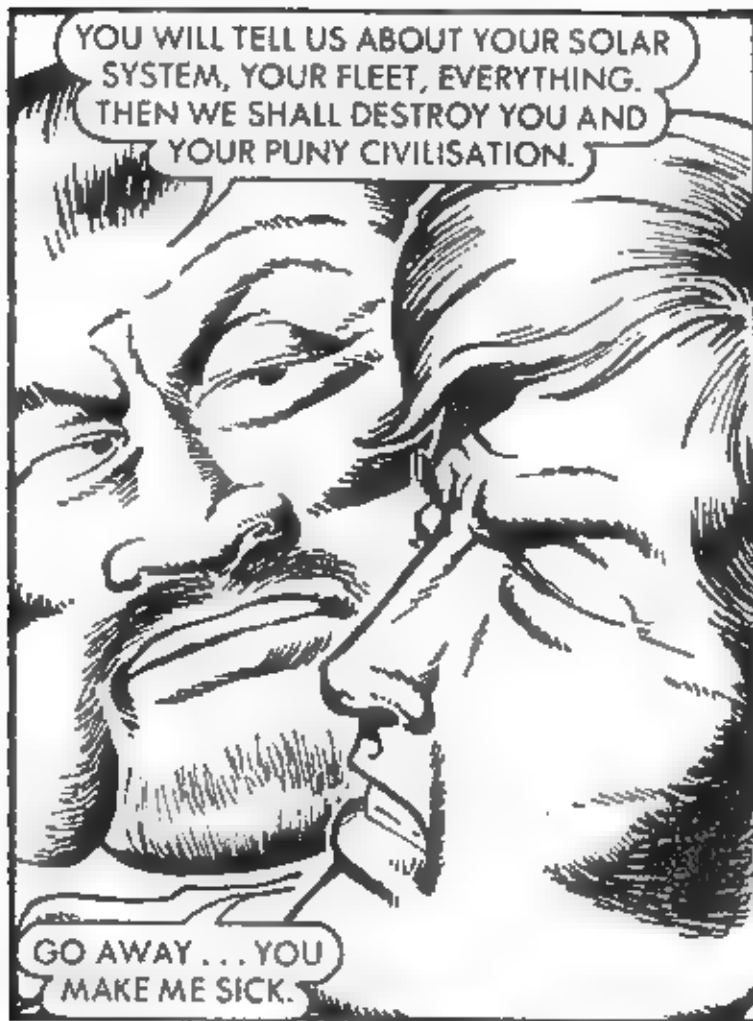






LYX WOKE UP IN A CRUTON LABORATORY ...  
A TORTURE LABORATORY









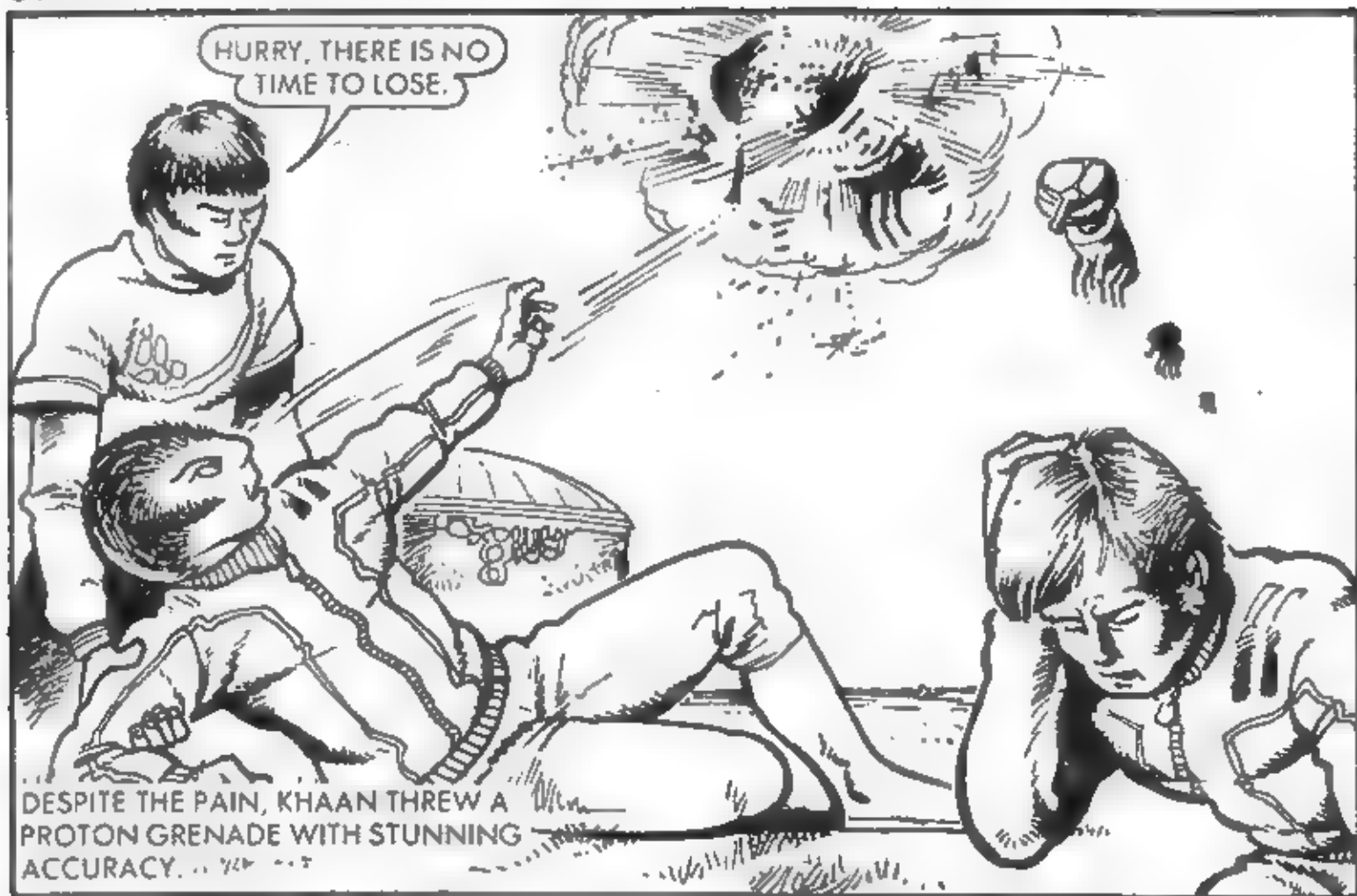
KHAAN MANAGED TO CARRY LYX.

THIS WAY, QUICKLY! THERE IS A  
SPACESHIP.

IT IS A GOOD THING THEY LEFT YOU  
FOR DEAD. GO AS FAST AS YOU  
CAN, I SHALL FOLLOW.

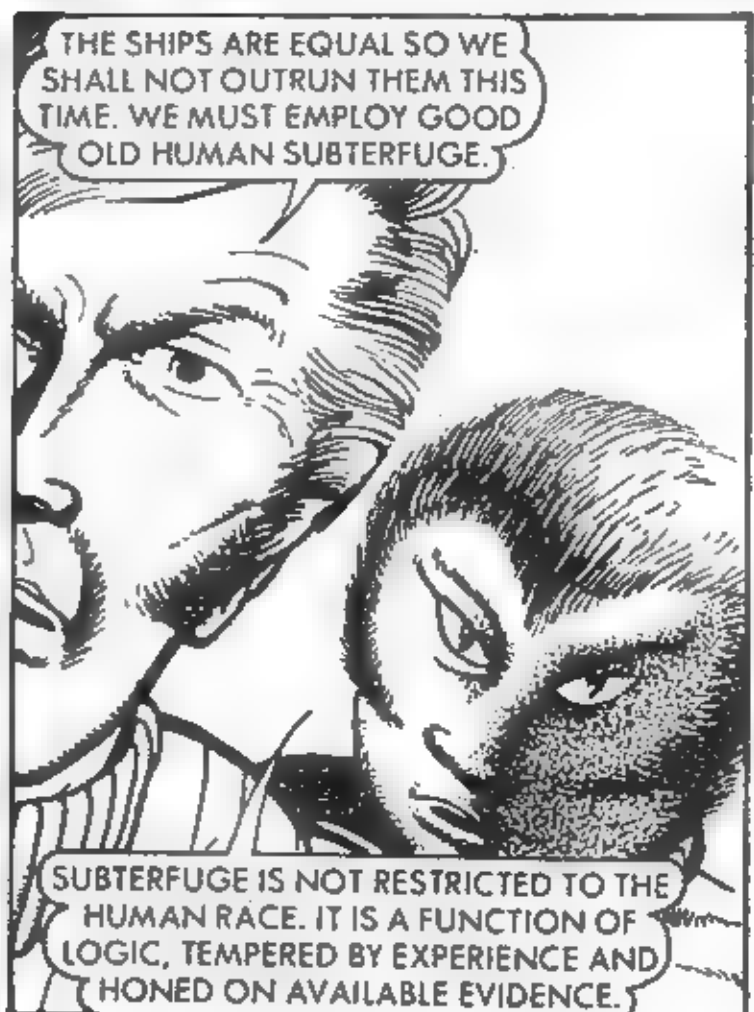
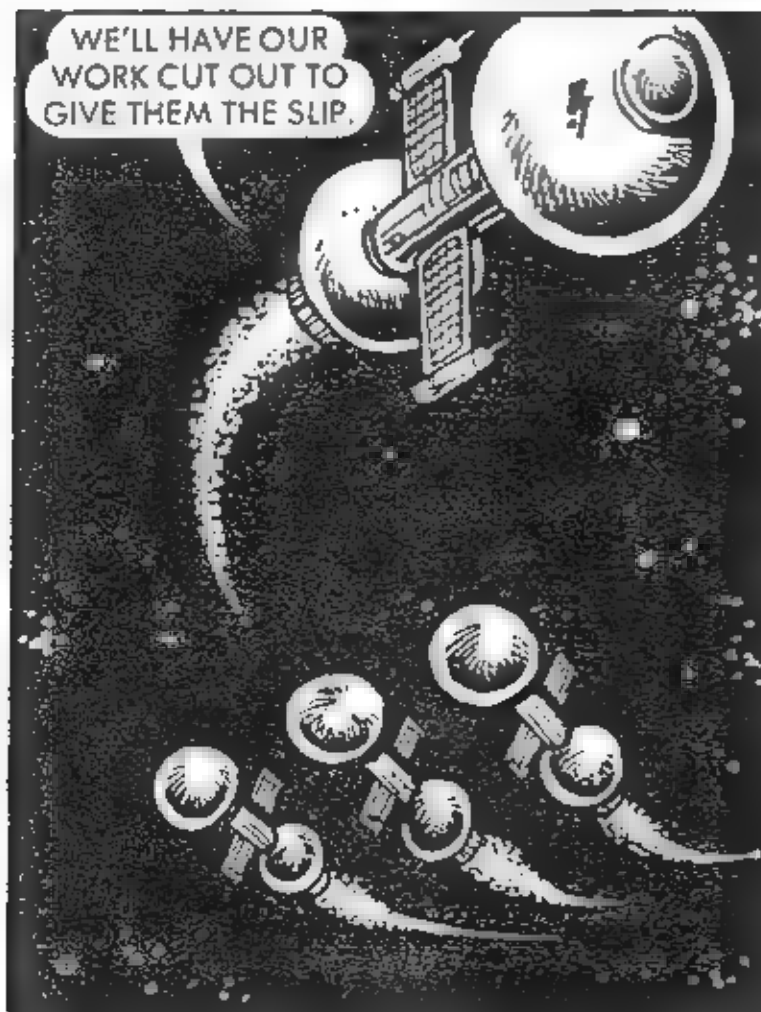
I'M HIT! TAKE THE CAPTAIN.  
LEAVE ME TO DEAL WITH THE  
PYROLUPE.

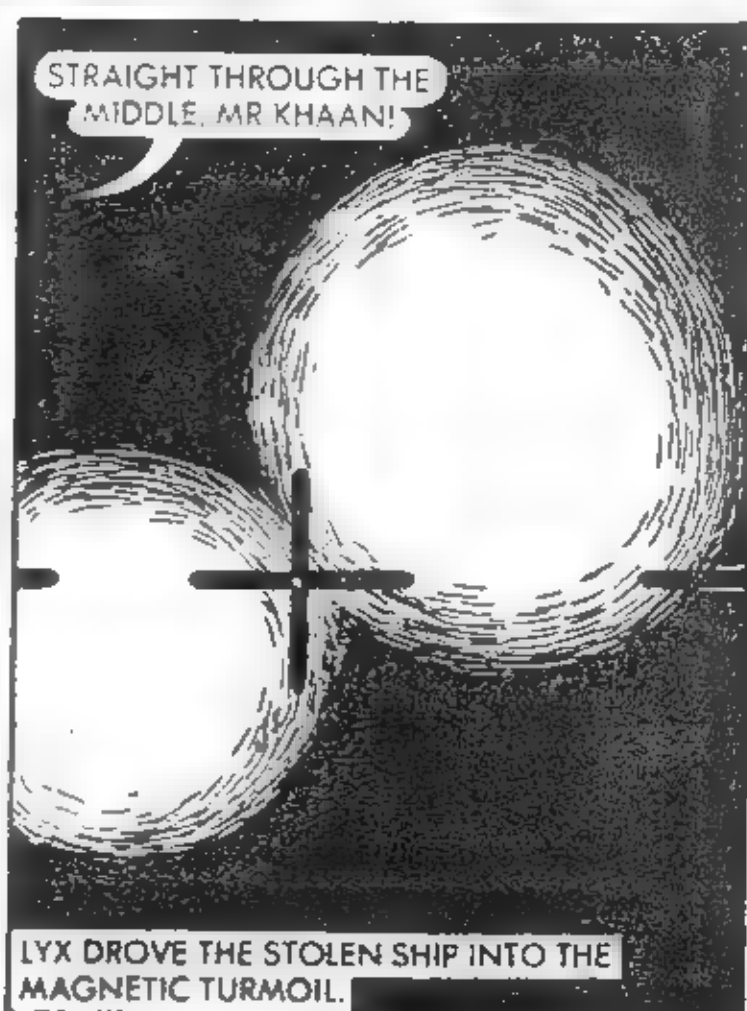
I WILL NOT LEAVE  
YOU. KILL IT NOW!



SOON THEY WERE ON BOARD THE SPACESHIP, HEADING TO SAFETY.









LEXOS! THE ALIENS ARE INSANE! NOTHING CAN SURVIVE THE FORCE FIELDS OF THE VARIANTS.



THE LORDS OF THE BARRIER MUST BE DEFEATED NOW!



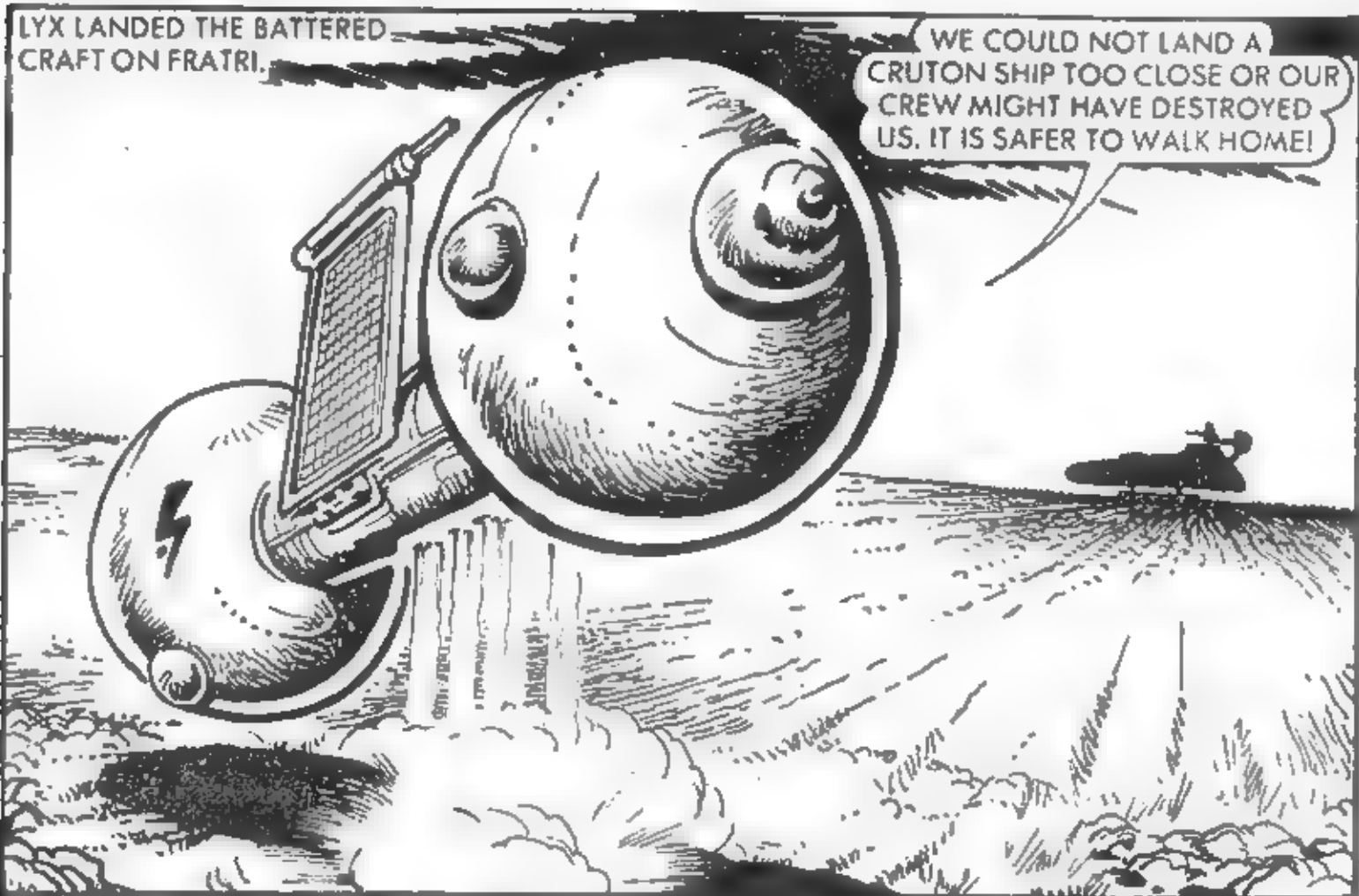
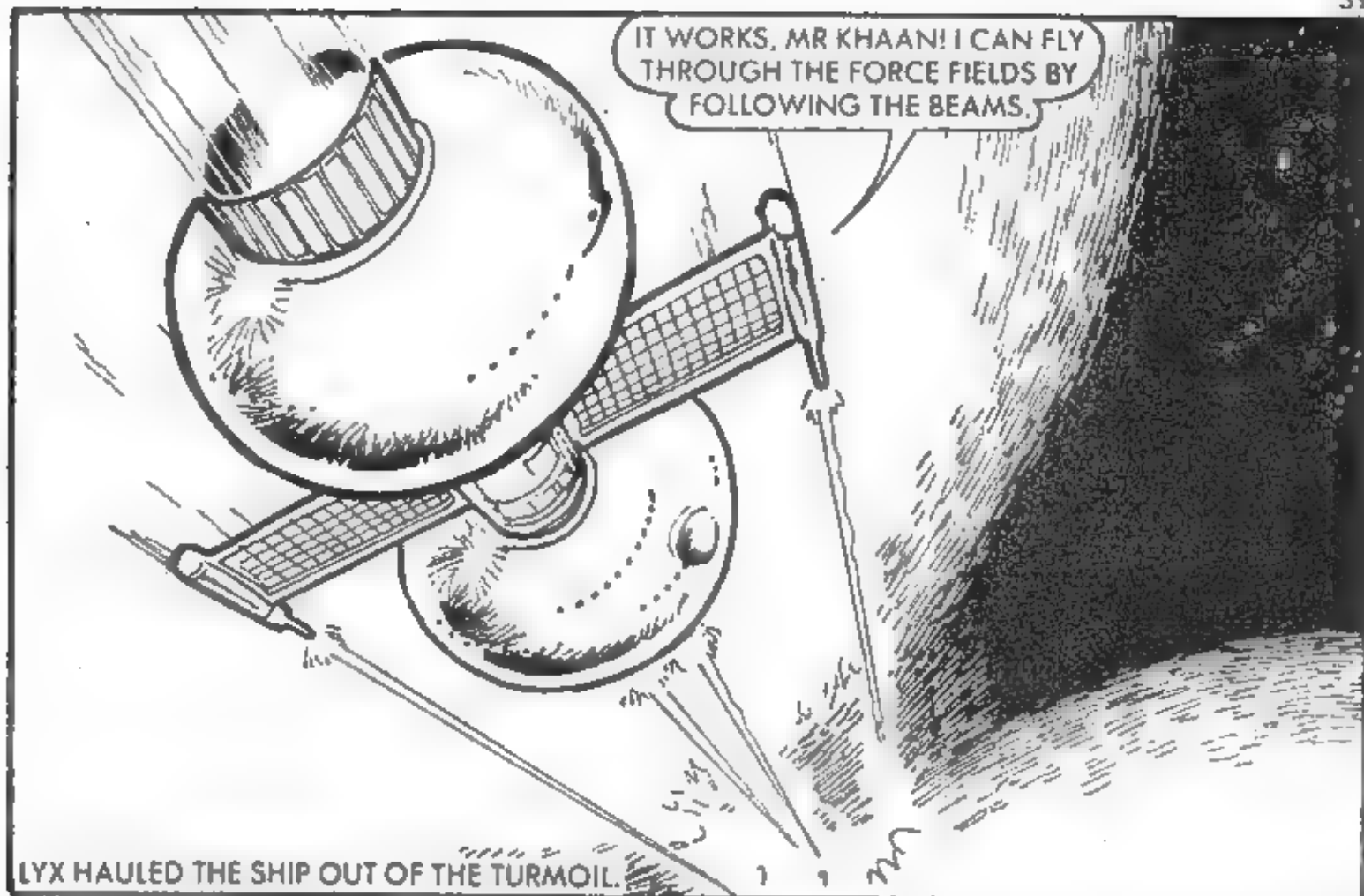
THE MAGNETIC FIELDS HAVE MADE  
OUR INSTRUMENTS USELESS. I  
CAN'T GUIDE THE SHIP!

ENORMOUS FORCES GRIPPED THE SPACECRAFT.



CAPTAIN! THE LASER CANNON! THEY  
WILL NOT BE DEFLECTED BY THE  
FORCE FIELDS. THEY WILL PROVIDE  
A STRAIGHT LINE FOR YOU FOLLOW.





A LITTLE LATER...

THERE IS SOMETHING  
WRONG, CAPTAIN.

I DO NOT NEED YOUR ACUTE  
PERCEPTIVE POWERS TO TELL  
ME THAT. IT IS TOO QUIET!

STAND SLOWLY, ALIENS, AND DO NOT MAKE  
ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.

WHO... WHAT...???



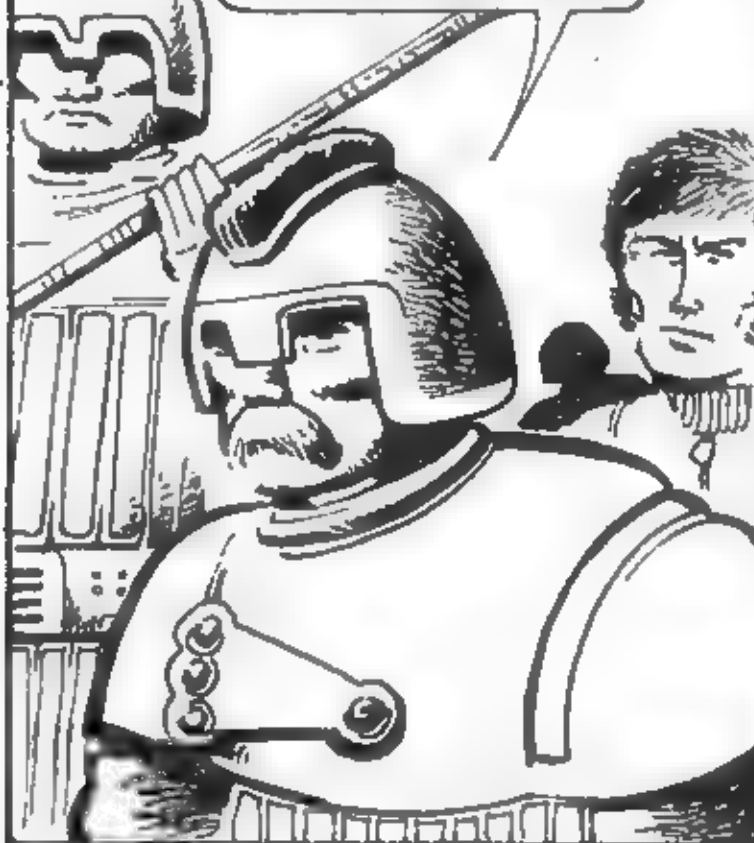
4  
LYX SOON FOUND OUT . . . ON HIS OWN SHIP!

NOW THAT WE HAVE THE CAPTAIN  
AND FIRST OFFICER, YOU WILL  
ORDER YOUR CREW TO THEIR  
STATIONS. WE ATTACK CRUTA  
IMMEDIATELY.

YOU ARE MAD. YOU WILL  
ALL BE KILLED!

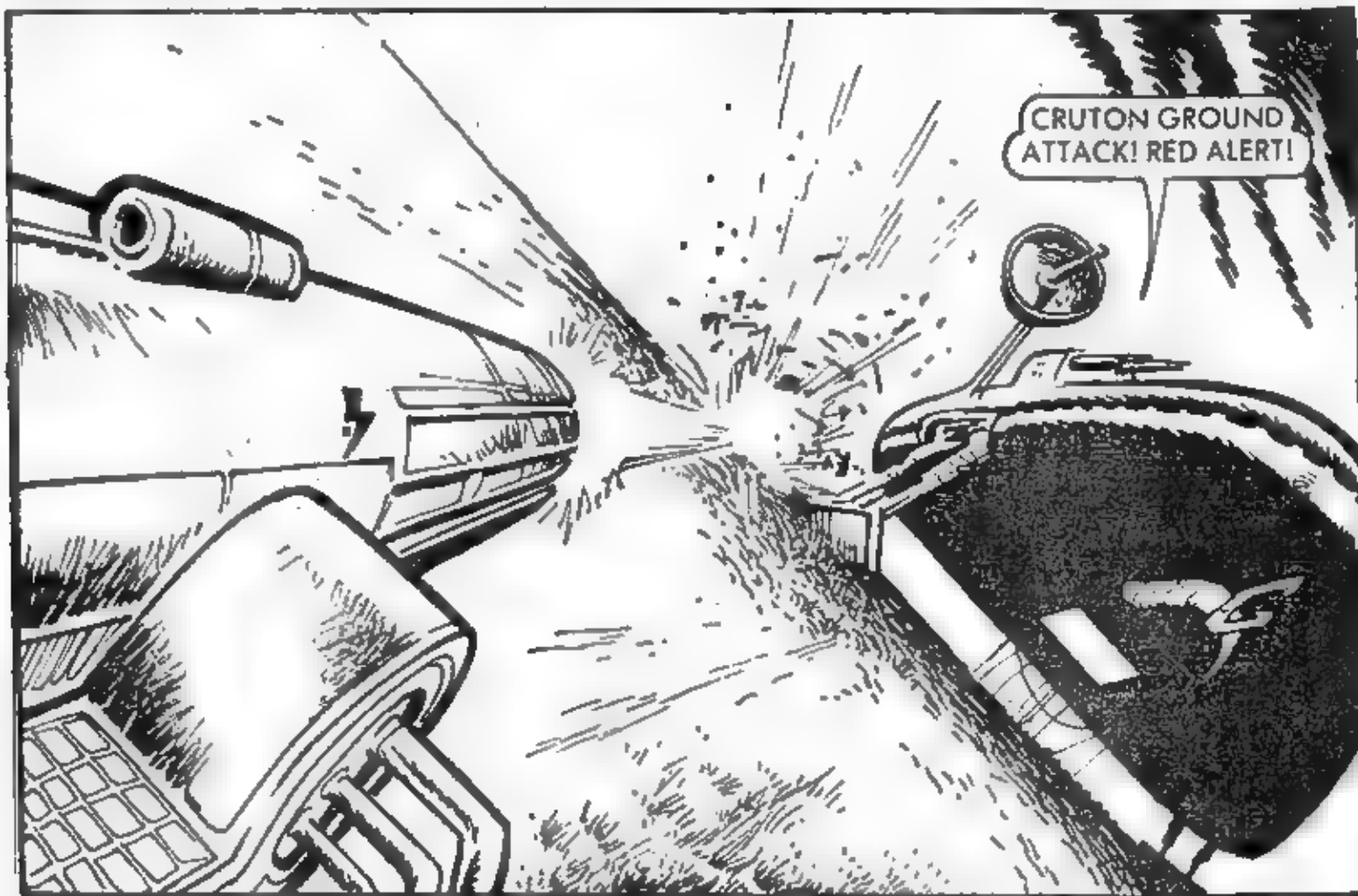
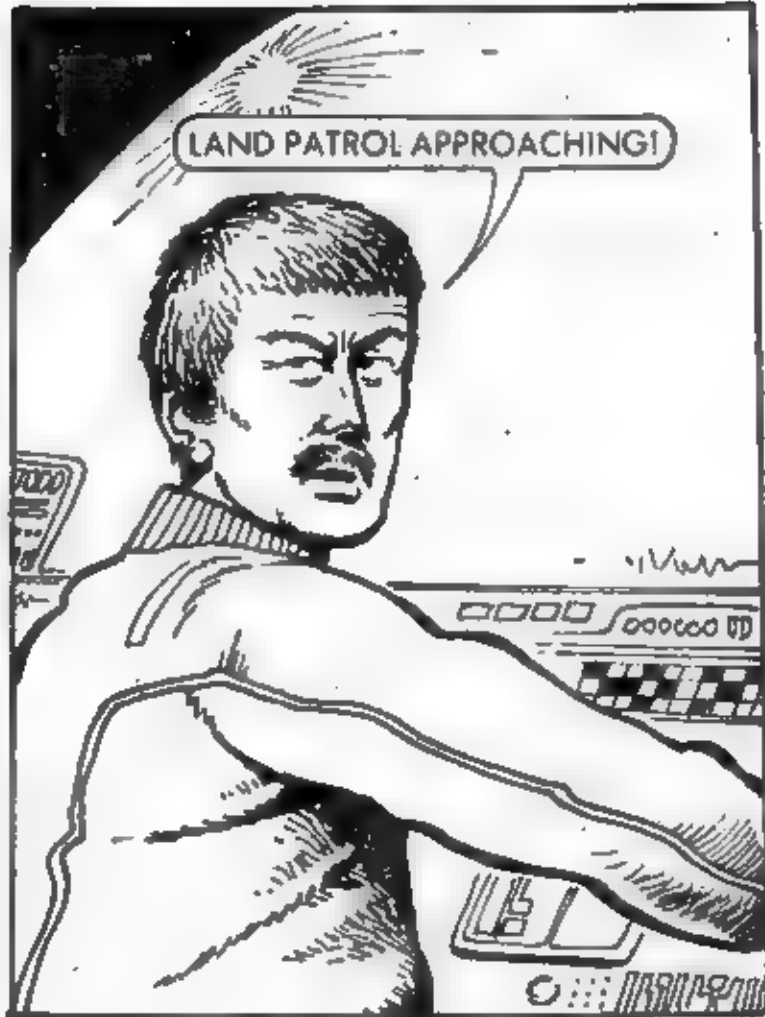


DO NOT QUESTION! YOU  
OBEY—OR DIE. WE SHALL USE THIS  
OPPORTUNITY TO DESTROY THE CRUTON  
STRONGHOLD FOR EVER.



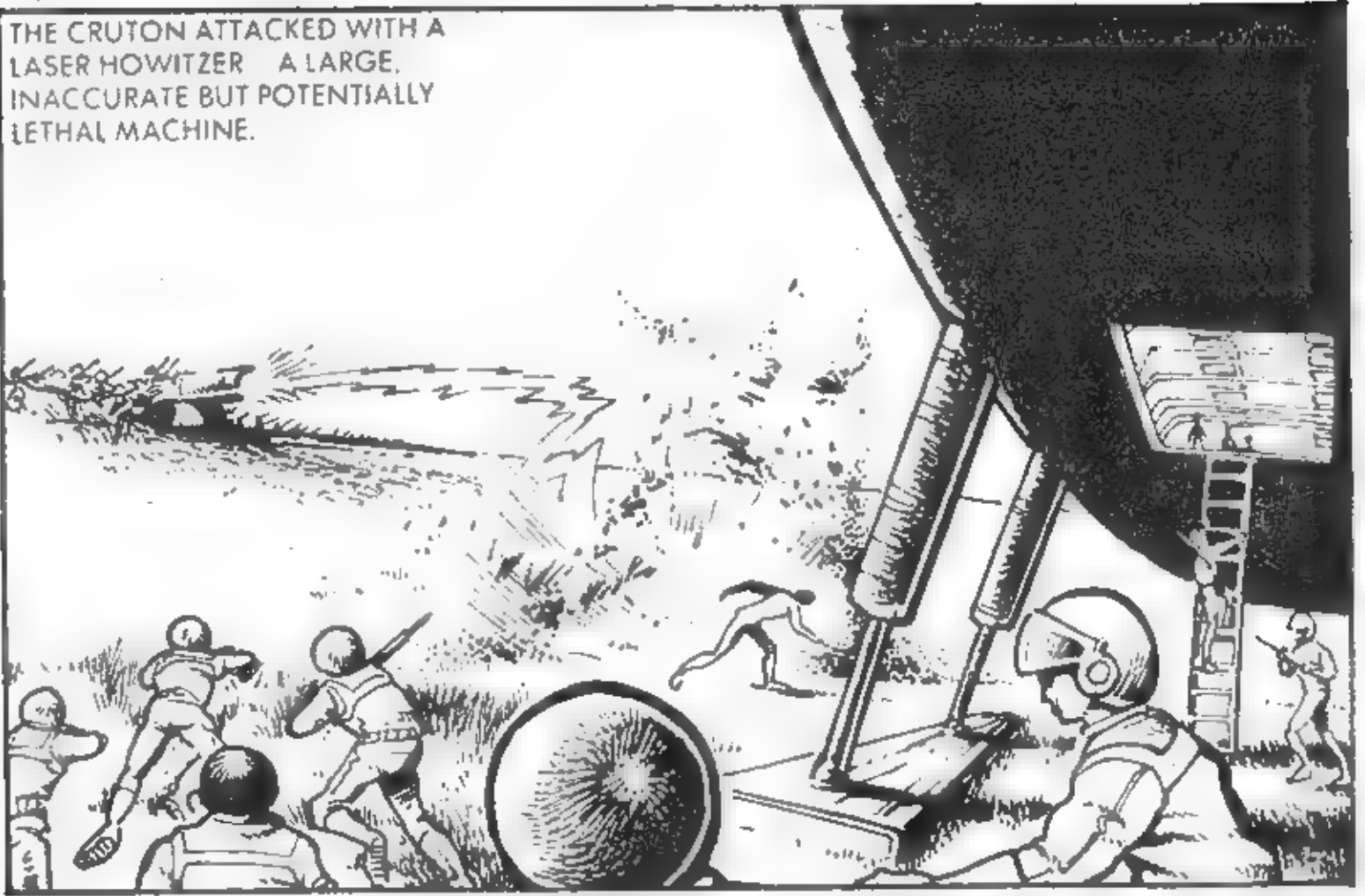
I HAVE HEARD OF YOU. YOU ARE  
GABON OF THE HILL-DWELLERS AND  
YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE CRUTON.  
THESE MEN OF THE BARRIER ARE OUR  
ALLIES. YOU MUST LISTEN TO THEM.







THE CRUTON ATTACKED WITH A  
LASER HOWITZER A LARGE,  
INACCURATE BUT POTENTIALLY  
LETHAL MACHINE.

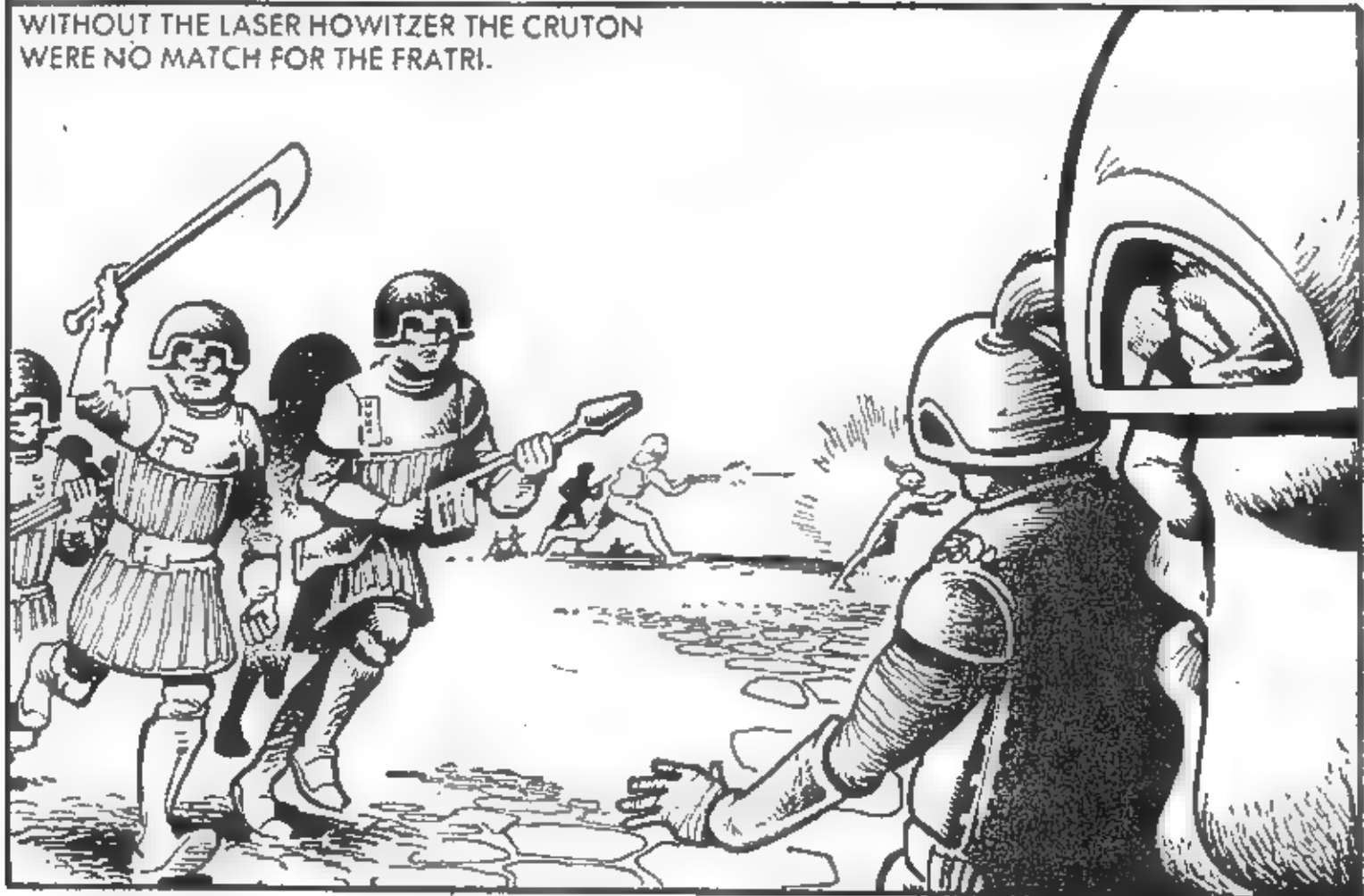








WITHOUT THE LASER HOWITZER THE CRUTON WERE NO MATCH FOR THE FRATRI.



THE CRUTON WERE PUT TO FLIGHT.

YOU FOUGHT WELL,  
STRANGERS. TOGETHER  
WE SHALL CONQUER THIS  
EVIL MENACE.



NOT SO, WORTHY FRIEND. WE LEAVE AT  
ONCE TO WARN OUR PEOPLE OF THE  
CRUTON INVASION. WE MAY ALREADY  
BE TOO LATE.

GO WELL. WE SHALL HOLD OUR  
PLANET UNTIL YOU RETURN TO JOIN  
US.



SEEKER LIFTED OFF FOR THE BARRIER AND THE ONLY EXIT.



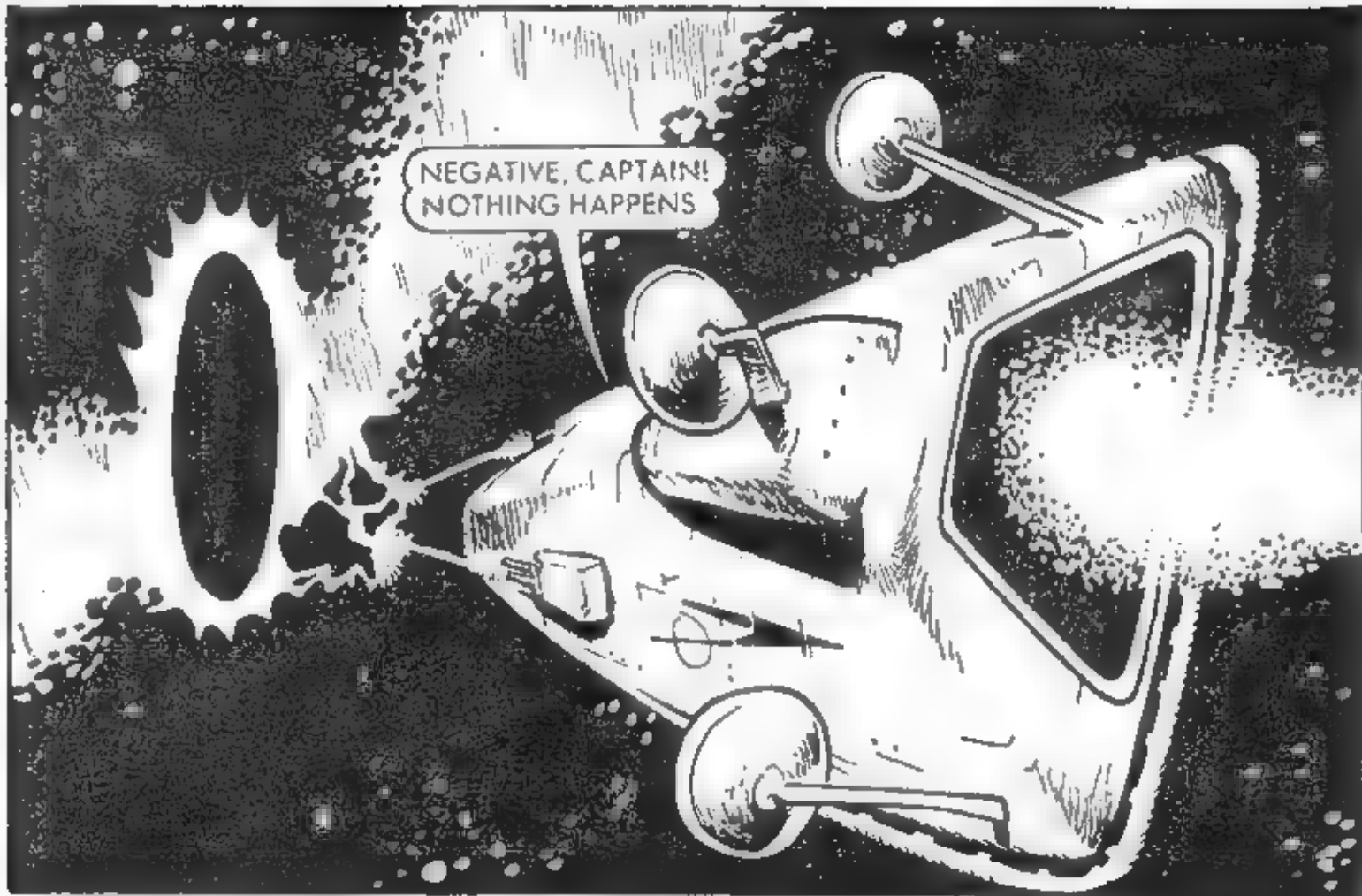


CAPTAIN, THE CRUTON INVASION FLEET IS IMMENSE!

OUR SENSOR SCRAMBLERS WILL  
KEEP US HIDDEN. I SEE THE HOLE  
AHEAD. ACCELERATION LATCH  
TWO. GENTLY NOW!

THE HOLE, DOLEG KHAAN.

YOUR USE OF MY TITLE TELLS ME THAT  
YOU ARE WORRIED, CAPTAIN.  
THE HOLE IS CLOSING. FIRE ANTI-  
MATTER PROJECTOR!



LYX RECALLED THE BATTLE WITH THE ALIEN CRAFT.

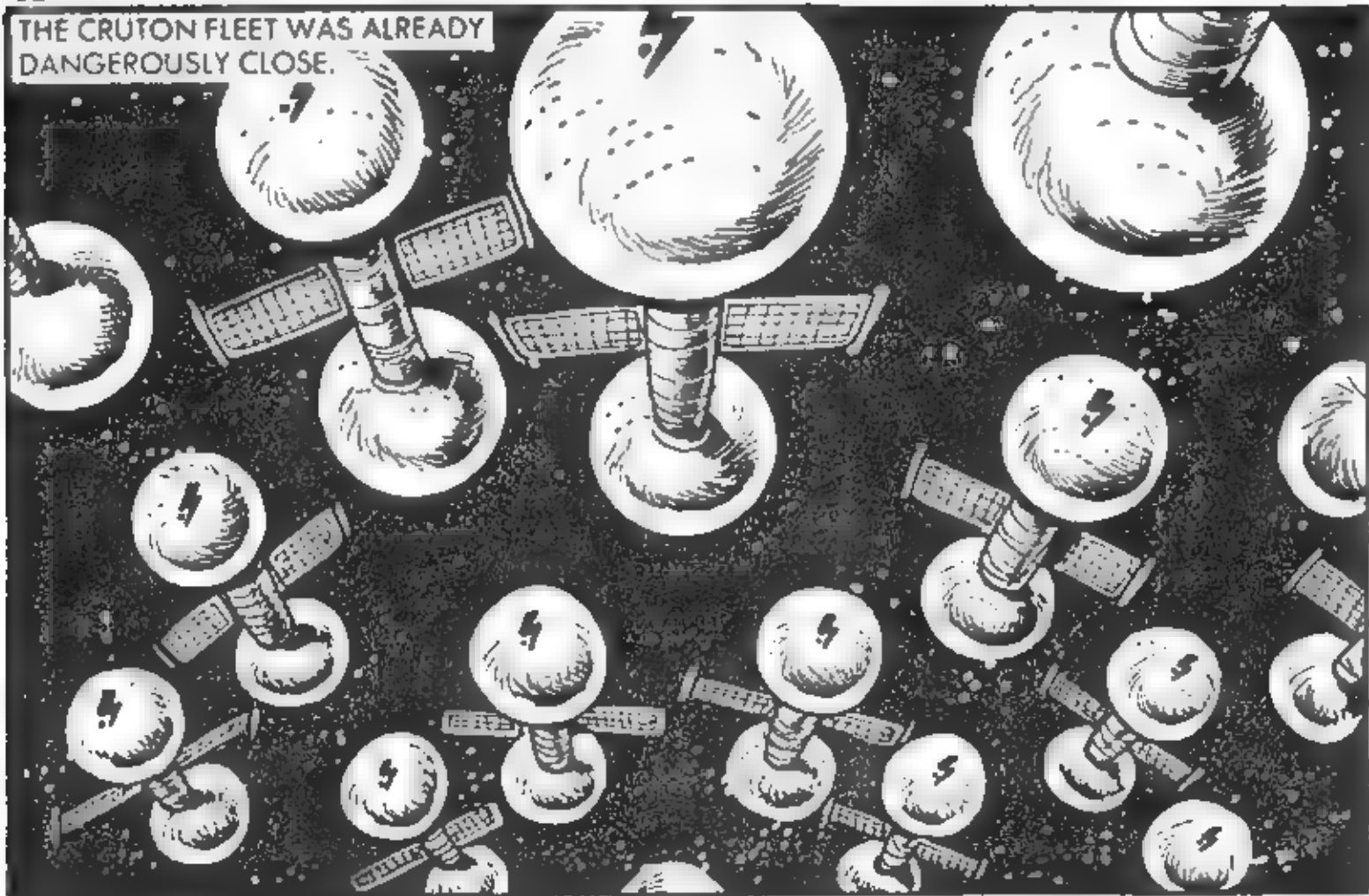


THIS IS THE MEETING PLACE OF  
MATTER AND ANTI-MATTER.  
WE MADE A HOLE IN THE  
BARRIER BY FIRING ANTI-  
MATTER BEAMS AT A MATTER  
BARRIER... WE NEUTRALISED  
AN AREA BIG ENOUGH TO  
PASS THROUGH.



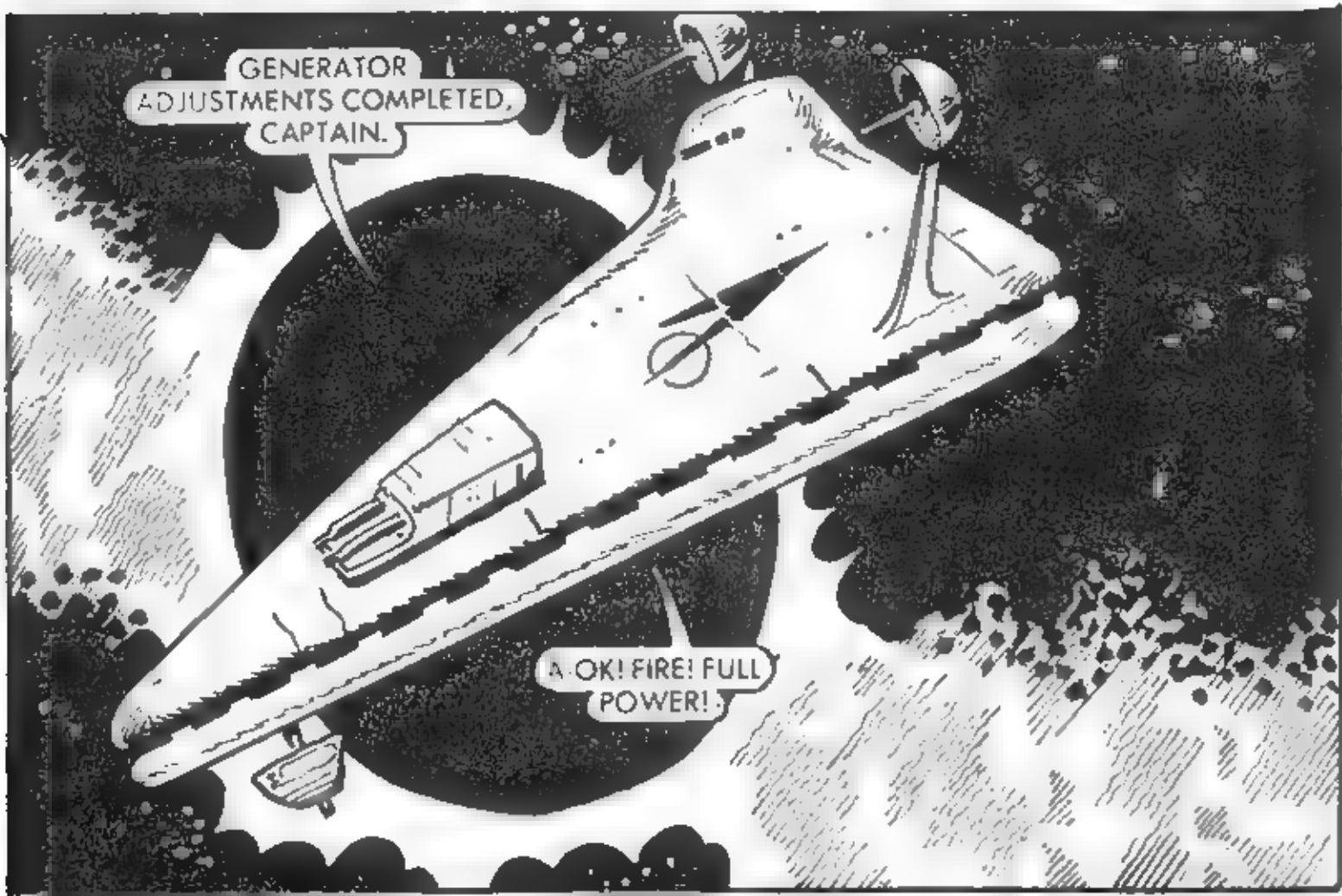
ON THIS SIDE WE MUST FIRE MATTER  
BEAMS AT AN ANTI-MATTER BARRIER.  
ENGINEERS, ALTER GENERATOR FOR  
NEUTRON BEAM EMISSION WITH ALL  
POSSIBLE HASTE.

THE CRUTON FLEET WAS ALREADY  
DANGEROUSLY CLOSE.




GENERATOR  
ADJUSTMENTS COMPLETED,  
CAPTAIN.

A OK! FIRE! FULL  
POWER!








THE BEAM IS LOSING POWER.  
INTENSITY IS DOWN TO SEVEN  
TENTHS MAXIMUM.

OUR FUEL CELLS ARE FAILING. DIVERT  
POWER FROM ALL OTHER SYSTEMS.  
WE MUST OPEN THE HOLE ENOUGH  
TO TRANSIT.

This panel shows two men in a cockpit. The man on the left has dark, shaggy hair and a beard, wearing a flight suit with a ribbed collar. The man on the right has short, light-colored hair and is also wearing a flight suit with a ribbed collar. They are both looking upwards and to the right. In the background, a large window shows a detailed map of a city with a grid of streets.



THE CRUTON FLEET IS VERY CLOSE.  
IF WE DIVERT POWER FROM THE  
SCRAMBLERS, THEY WILL SPOT US.

WE MUST TAKE THAT CHANCE.  
OUR RETURN IS VITAL.

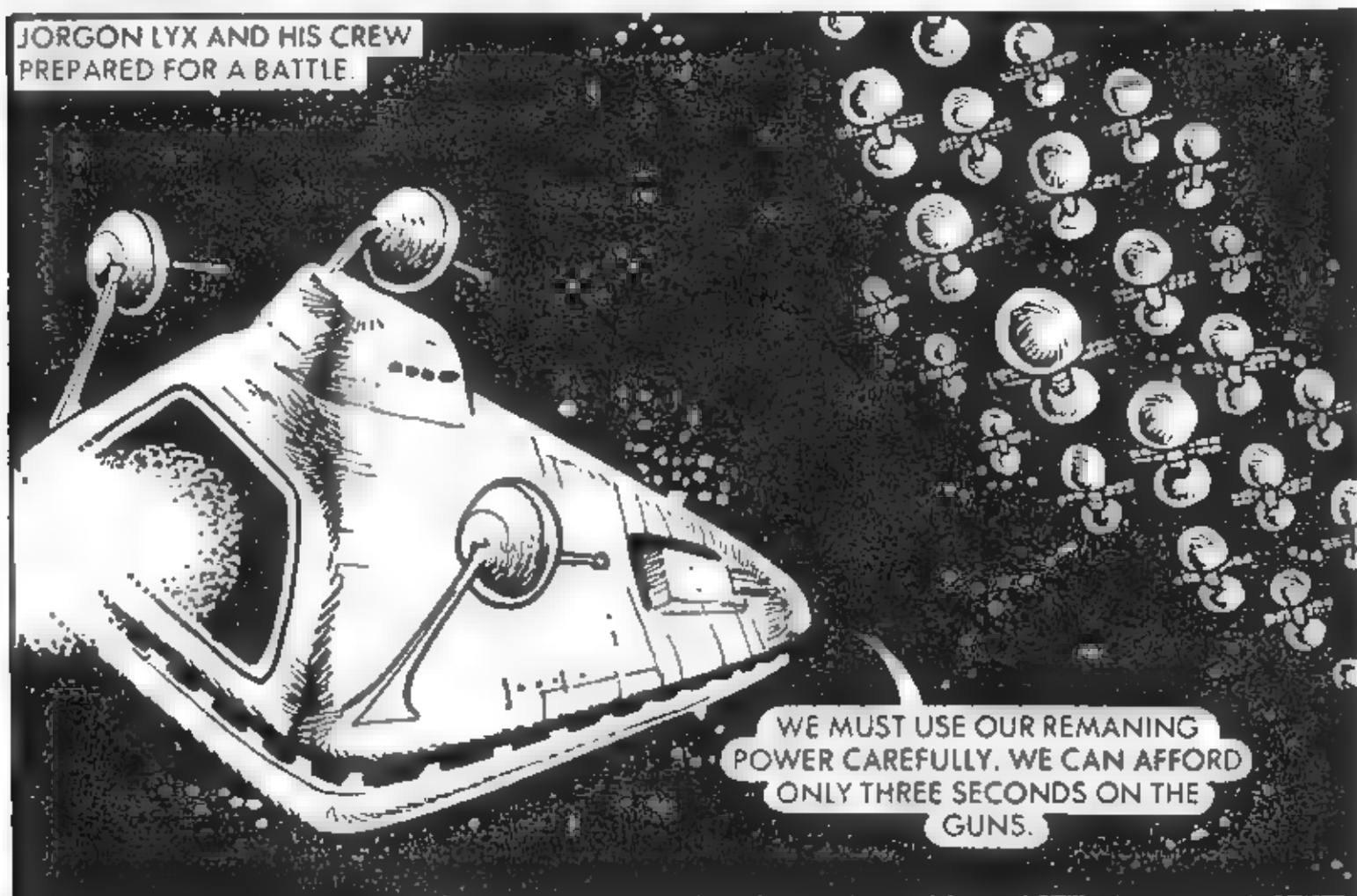
This panel shows a man in a cockpit, wearing a headset with a microphone. He has short, dark hair and is wearing a flight suit with a ribbed collar. He is looking down at a control panel. The control panel is filled with various instruments, including a large analog gauge with a needle, several smaller dials, and a keyboard with many buttons. The background shows a city map, similar to the one in the first panel.

AS SEEKER'S POWER WAS DIVERTED, THE CRUTON FLEET PICKED HER UP.

THOSE ACCURSED BARRIER PEOPLE!  
THIS TIME WE WILL DESTROY THEM  
AND THEIR SHIP. THEIR SPACE  
WEAPONS CANNOT HARM US!

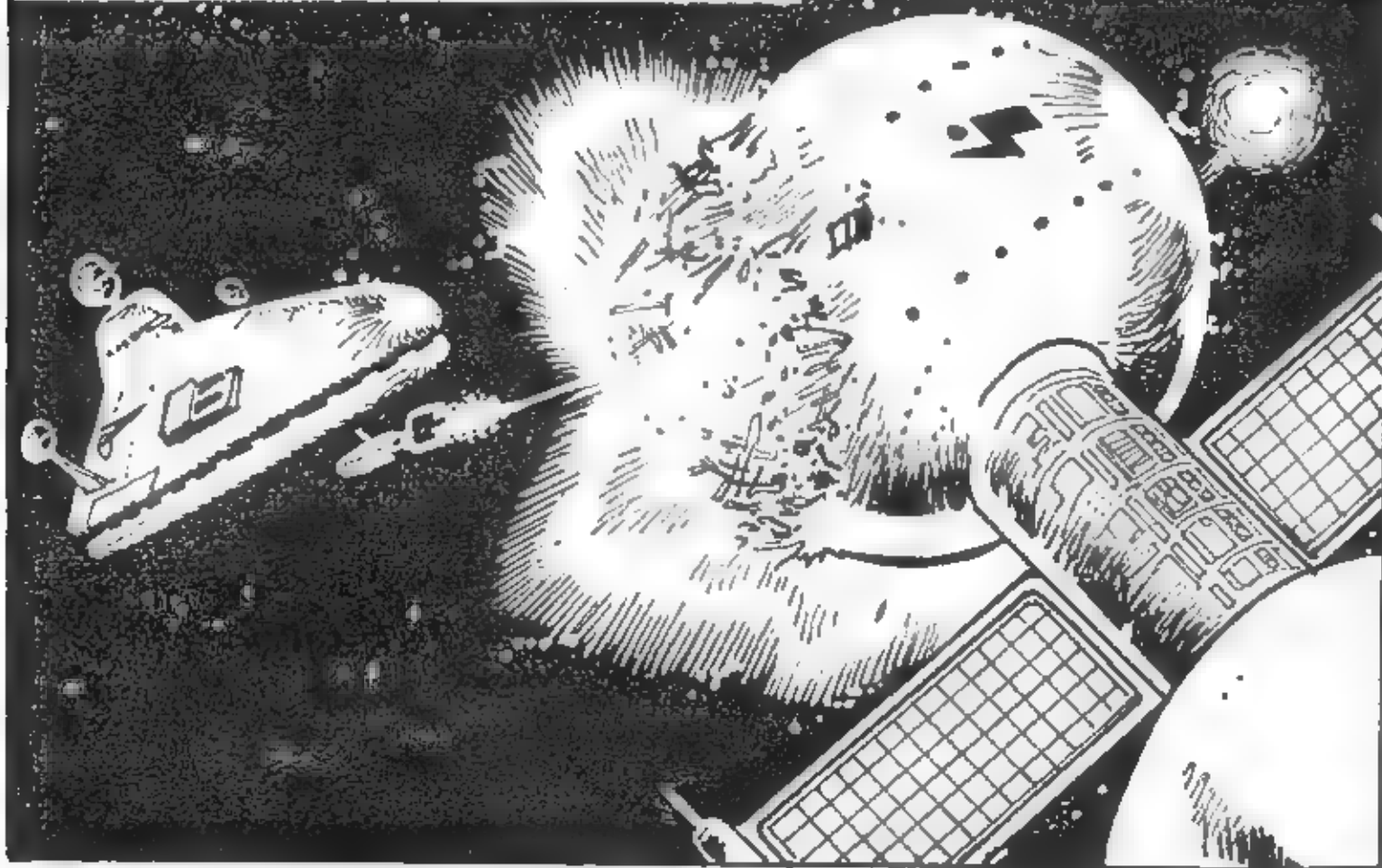


JORGON LYX AND HIS CREW  
PREPARED FOR A BATTLE.

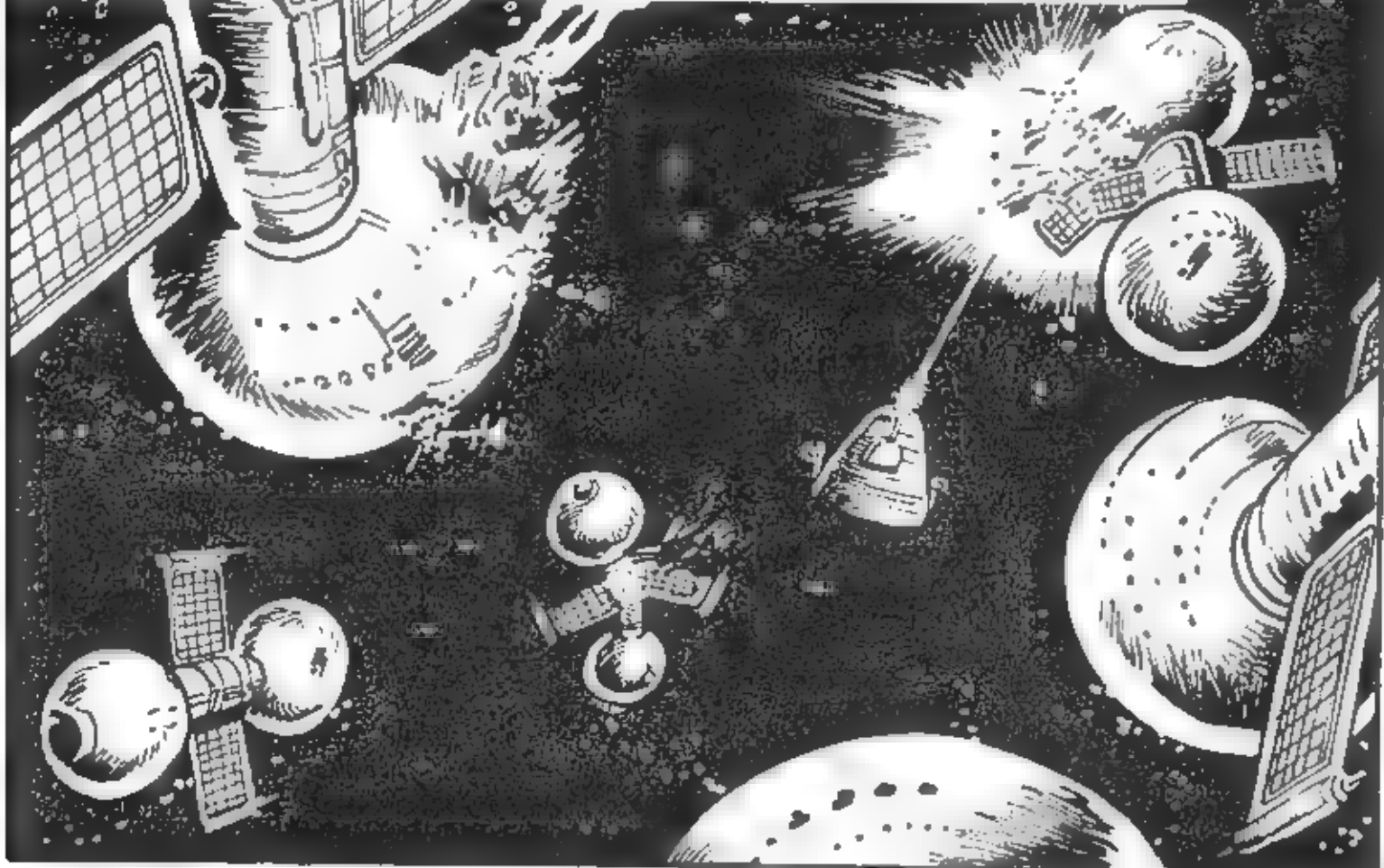


WE MUST USE OUR REMANING  
POWER CAREFULLY. WE CAN AFFORD  
ONLY THREE SECONDS ON THE  
GUNS.

A ONE SECOND BURST STOPPED THE LEADING FIGHTER.



TWO MORE RAPID BURSTS SENT ANOTHER TWO CRUTON VESSELS TO THEIR DOOM.





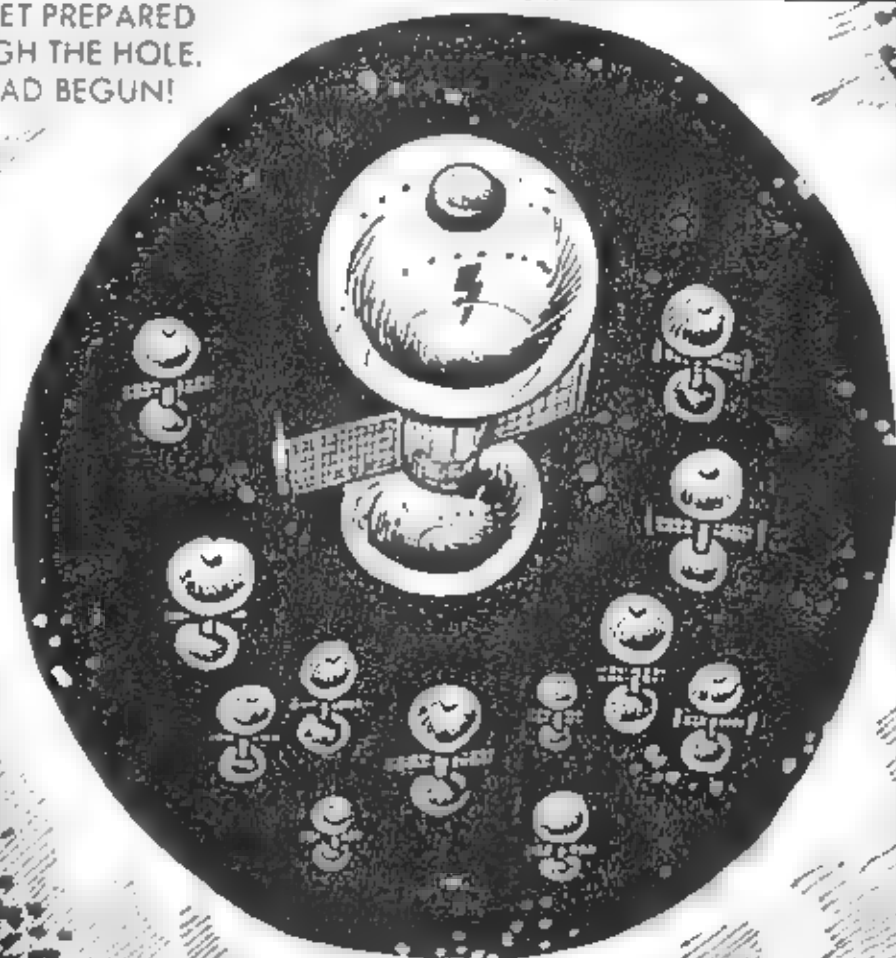
SEEKER SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THROUGH THE HOLE AND WAS AMONG THE DERELICT SHIPS ON THE UNION SIDE ONCE MORE.

THAT WAS CLOSE, THE HOLE WAS ONLY JUST WIDE ENOUGH.

WARN H.Q. OF THE CRUTON INVASION FLEET. TELL THEM WE NEED ASSISTANCE.



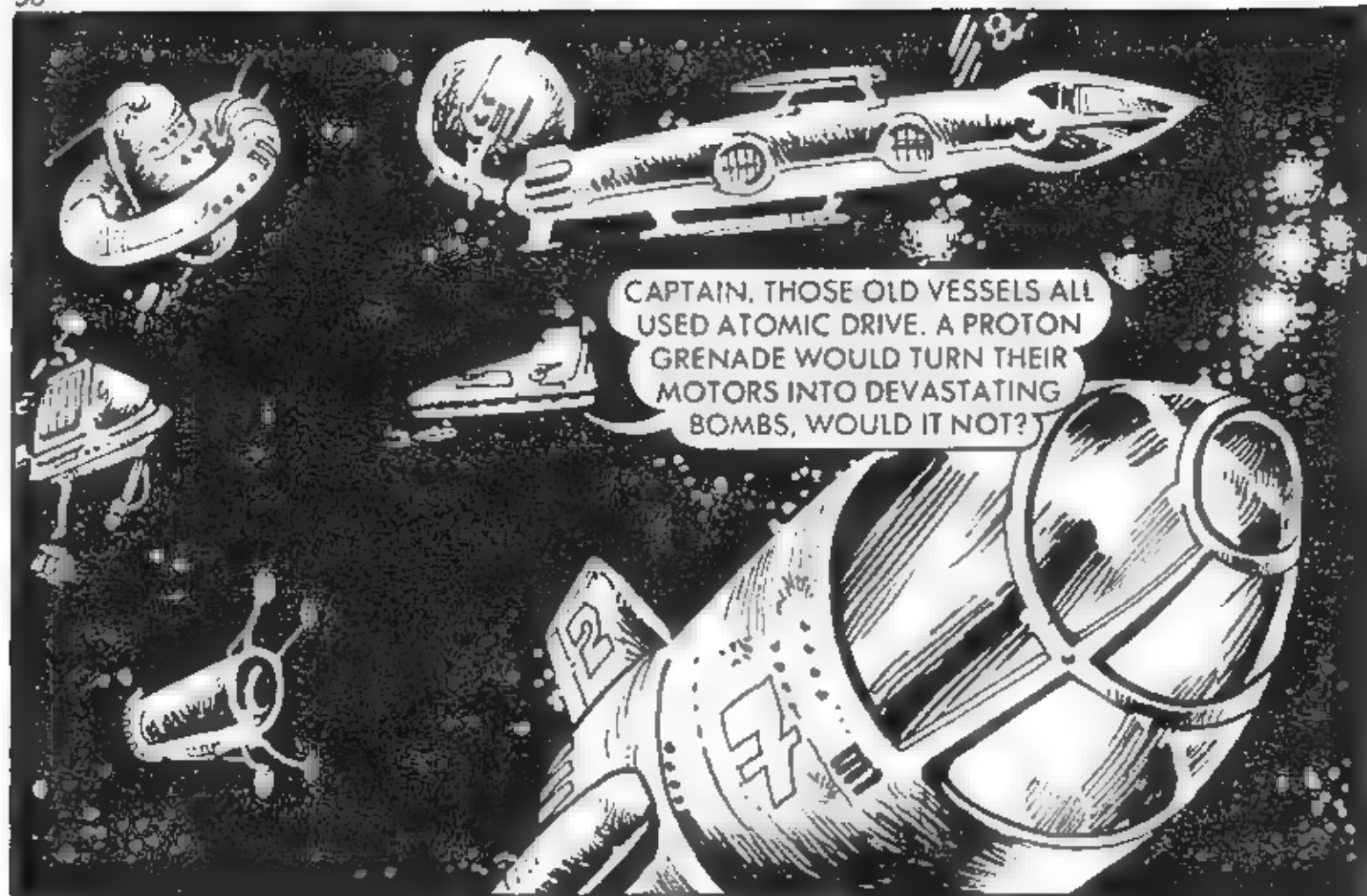
THE CRUTON FLEET PREPARED  
TO PASS THROUGH THE HOLE.  
THE INVASION HAD BEGUN!



CLOSE ALL SYSTEMS.  
SILENT RUNNING! THEY  
CANNOT DETECT US,  
BUT WE ARE POWERLESS  
TO STOP THEM.



SEEKER LAY DORMANT, HIDDEN AMONG THE DERELICT SHIPS.



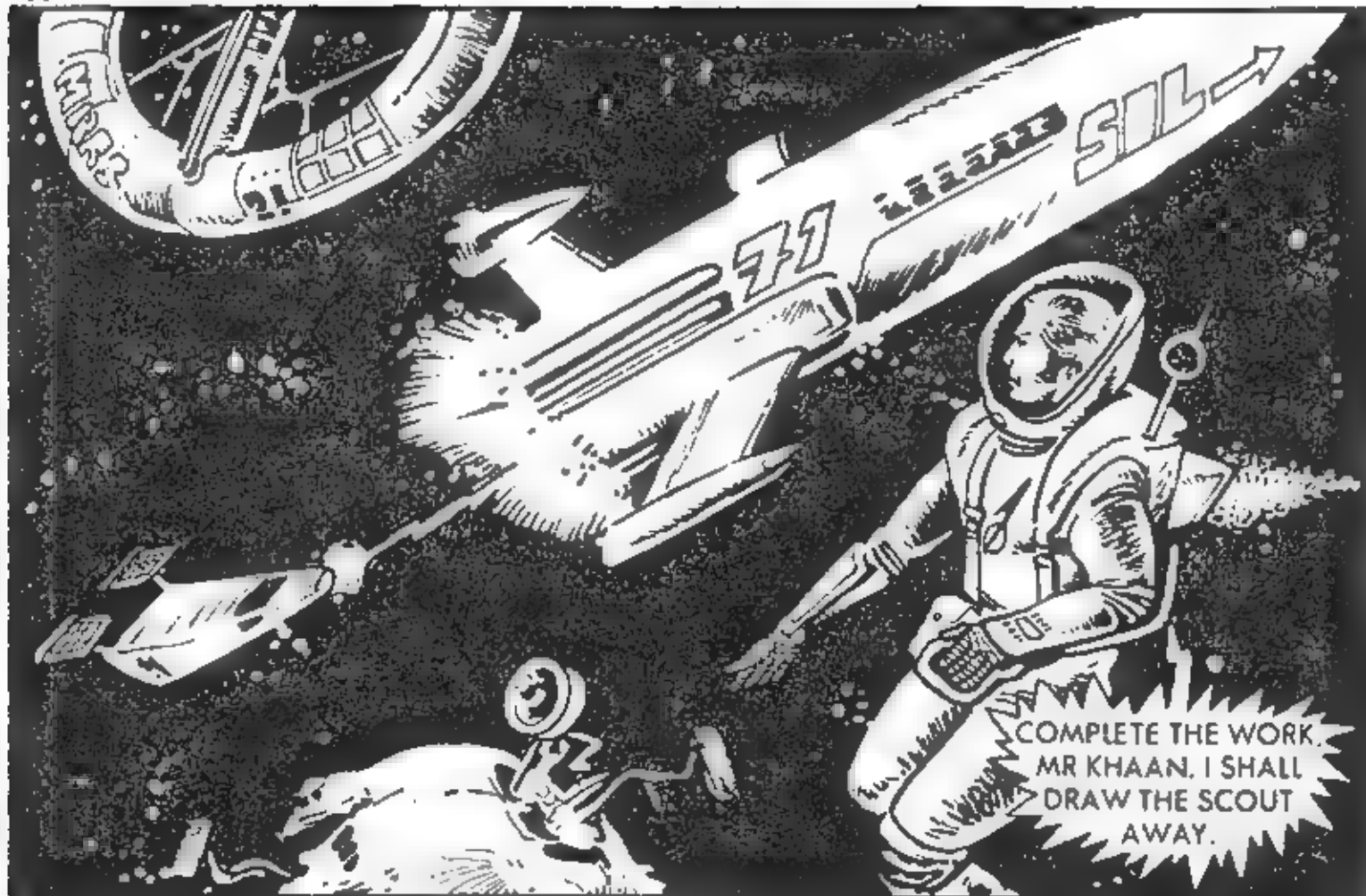
JORGON AND KHAAN SUITED UP, AND LEFT SEEKER

OUR PROTON GRENADES CAN  
DETONATED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY  
A SINGLE SIGNAL.

WE MUST WORK  
QUICKLY, CAPTAIN.

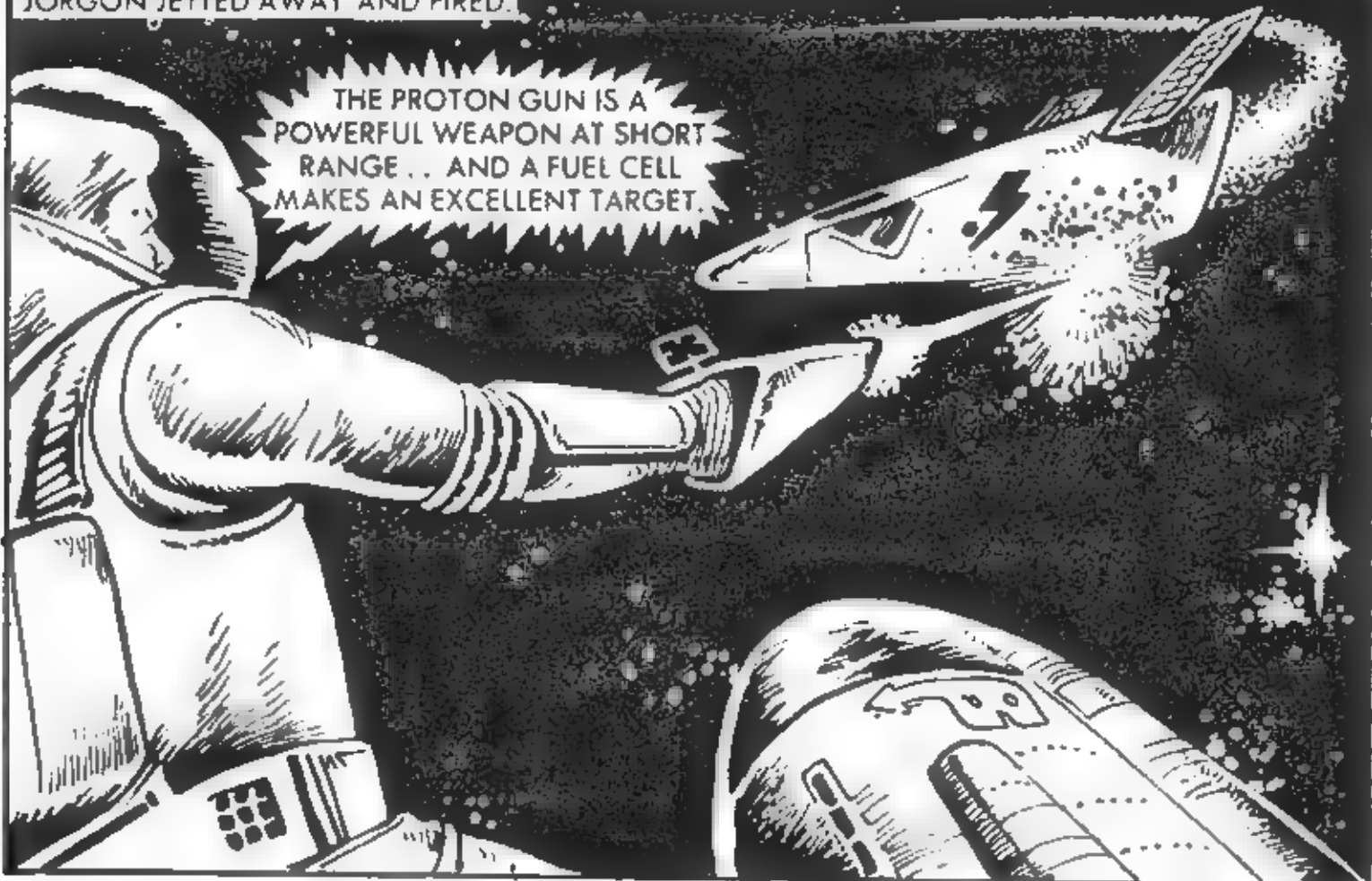


A CRUTON SCOUT SHIP!  
HE'S SEEN US!



JORGON JETTED AWAY AND FIRED.

THE PROTON GUN IS A POWERFUL WEAPON AT SHORT RANGE... AND A FUEL CELL MAKES AN EXCELLENT TARGET.

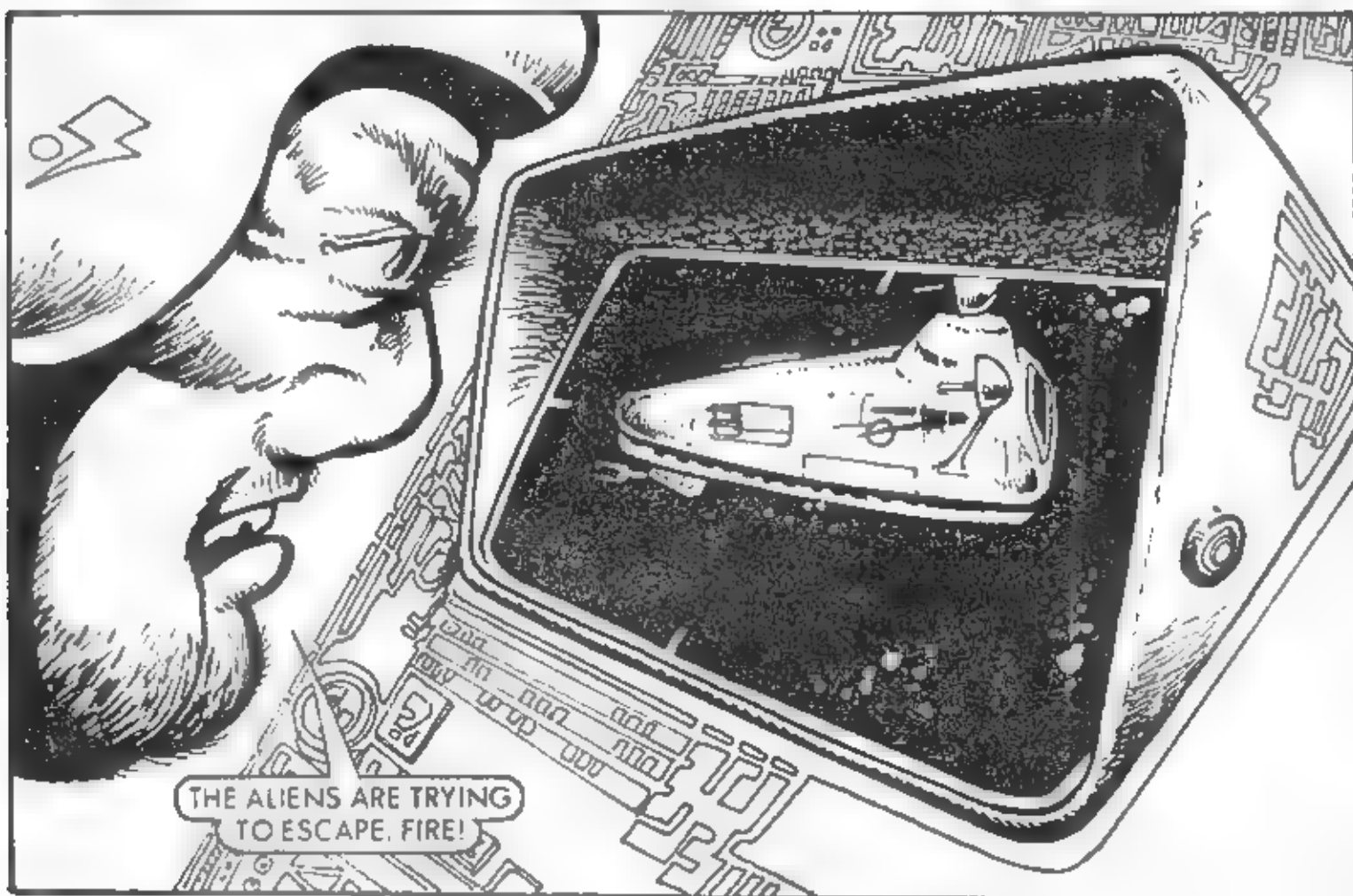




WITH THE SCOUTSHIP TAKEN CARE OF, THE TWO SPACERS HEADED BACK TO SEEKER.

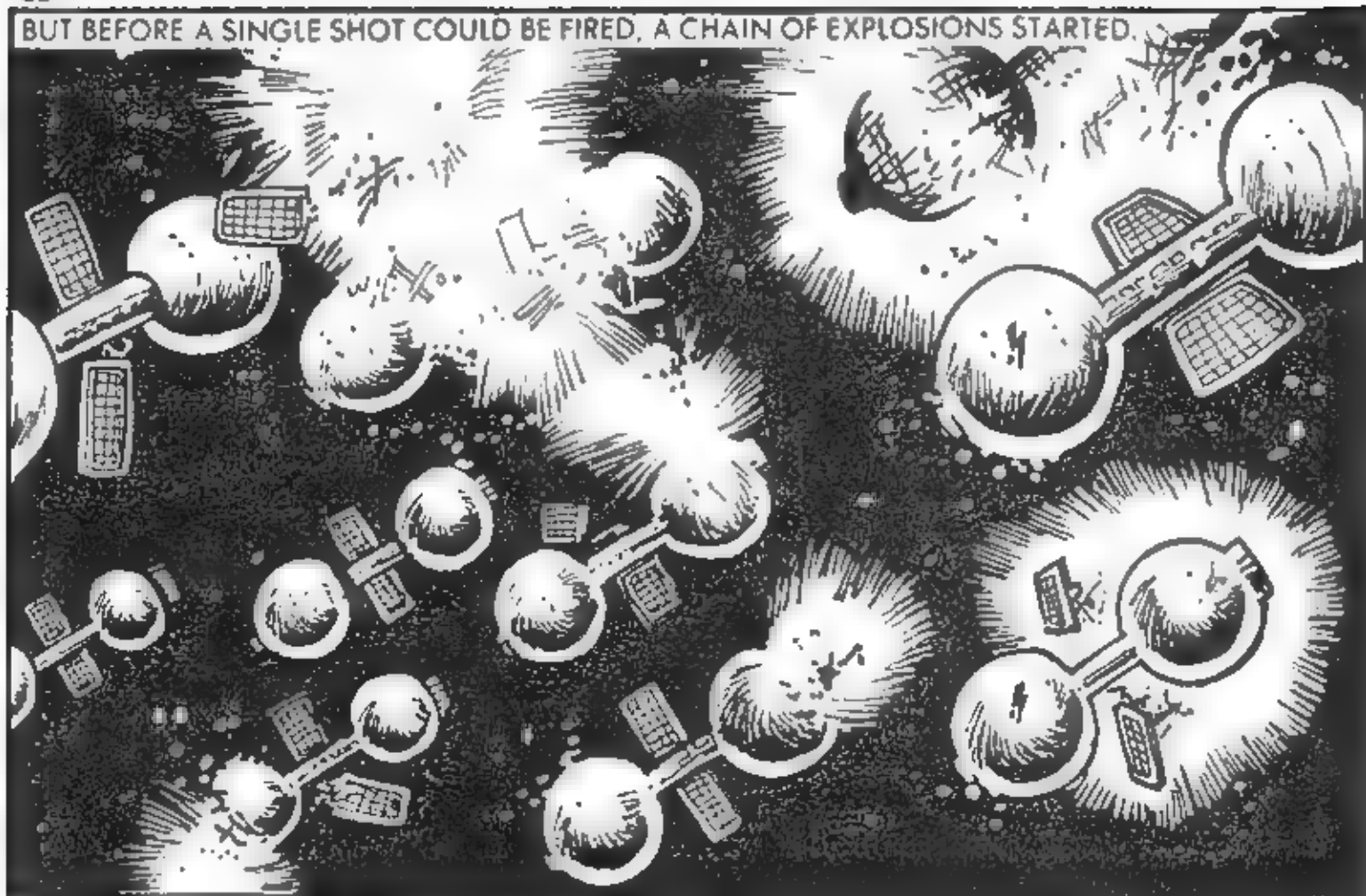
DETONATION IN  
THREE MINUTES.

ENGINES! MAKE READY FOR  
ACCELERATION LATCH TEN AS  
SOON AS WE ARE ABOARD.



THE ALIENS ARE TRYING  
TO ESCAPE. FIRE!

BUT BEFORE A SINGLE SHOT COULD BE FIRED, A CHAIN OF EXPLOSIONS STARTED.

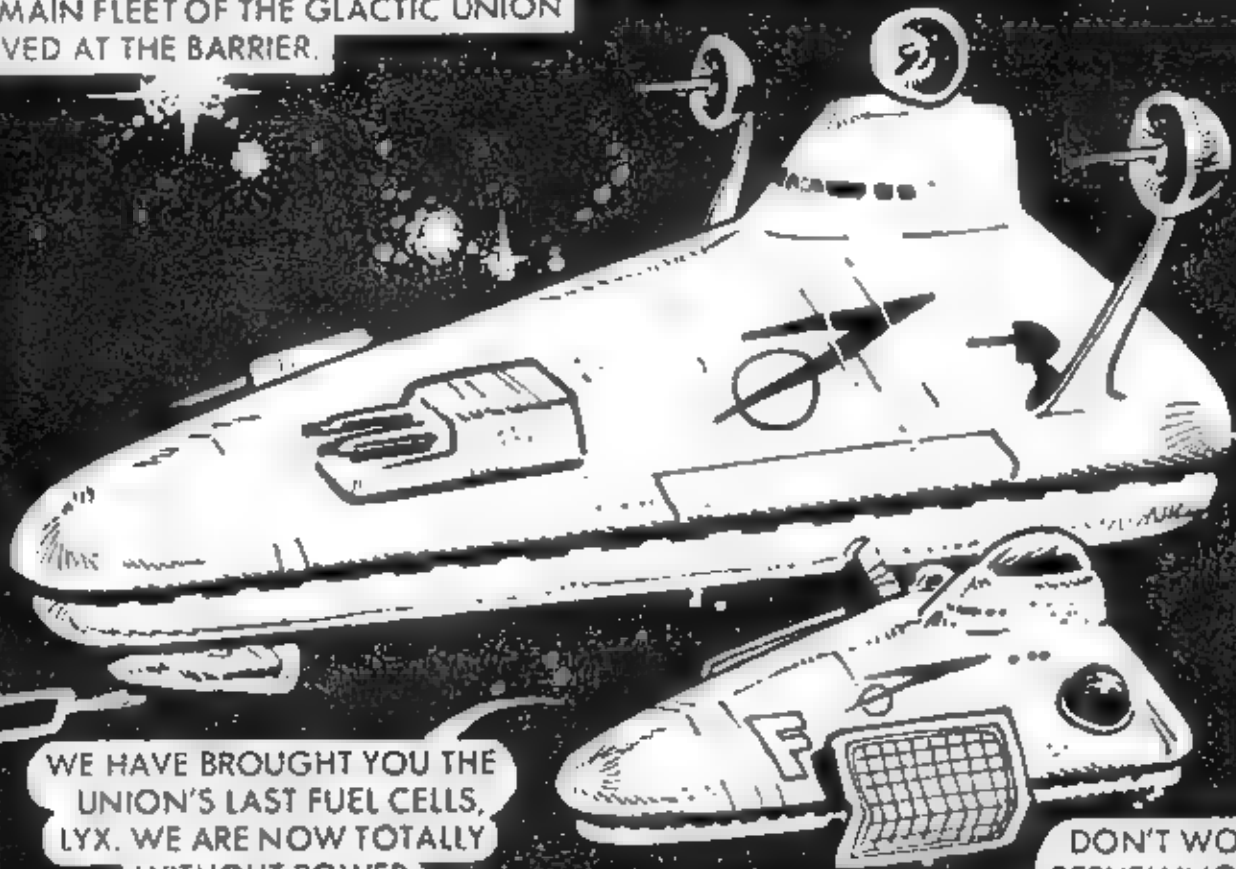


WE HAVE DESTROYED THE FIRST PART OF THE CRUTON INVASION FORCE, BUT THE OTHERS WILL SOON REFORM.

OUR MESSAGE TO H.Q. HAS BEEN ANSWERED. THE UNION FLEET WILL BE WITH US SHORTLY.



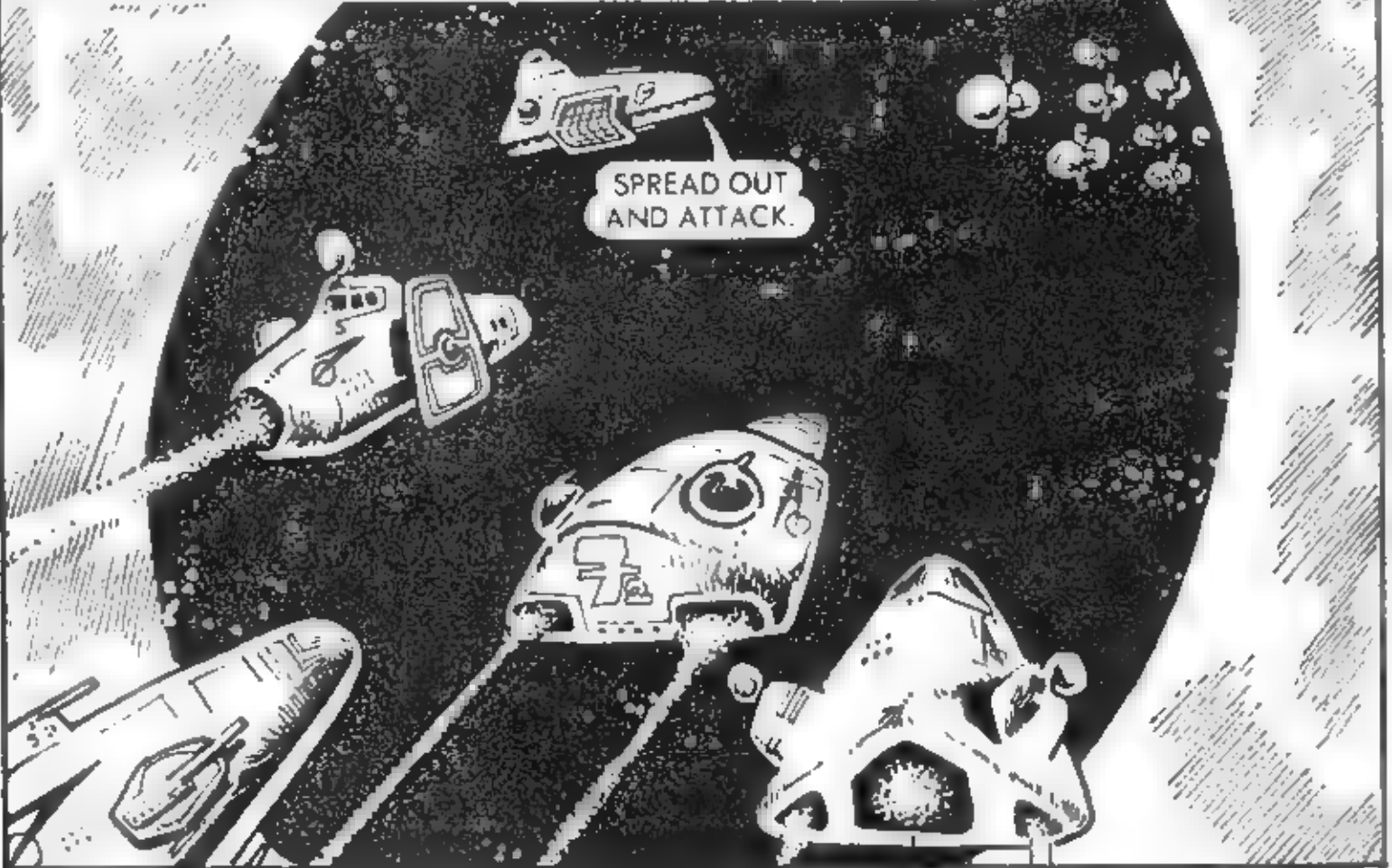
THE MAIN FLEET OF THE GLACTIC UNION  
ARRIVED AT THE BARRIER.



WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE  
UNION'S LAST FUEL CELLS,  
LYX. WE ARE NOW TOTALLY  
WITHOUT POWER  
RESERVES.

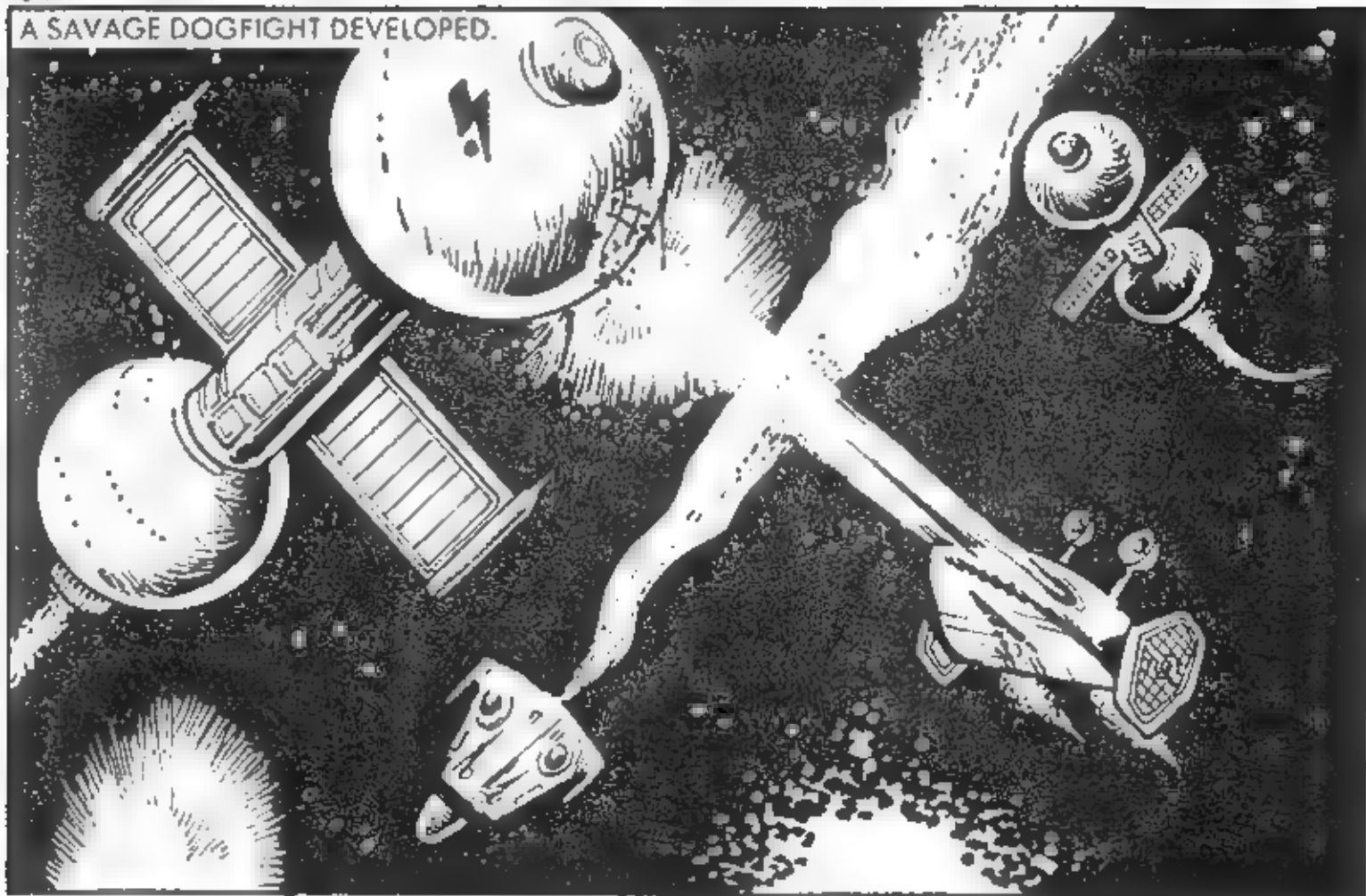
DON'T WORRY! THIS  
REFUELLING WILL GIVE  
SEEKER THE FIREPOWER TO  
DEAL WITH THE CRUTON.

THE GALACTIC UNION FLEET FOLLOWED SEEKER THROUGH THE HOLE



SPREAD OUT  
AND ATTACK.

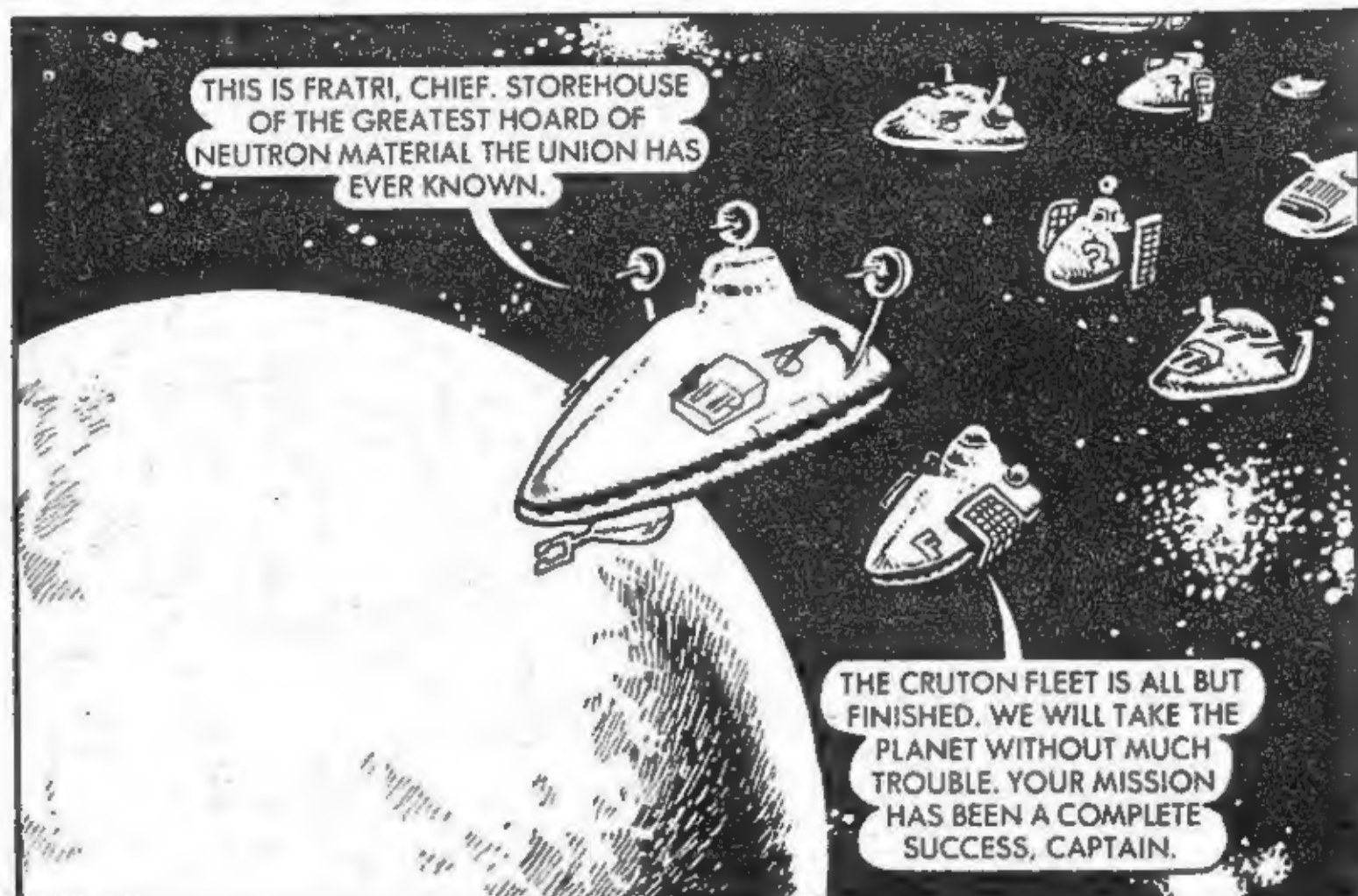
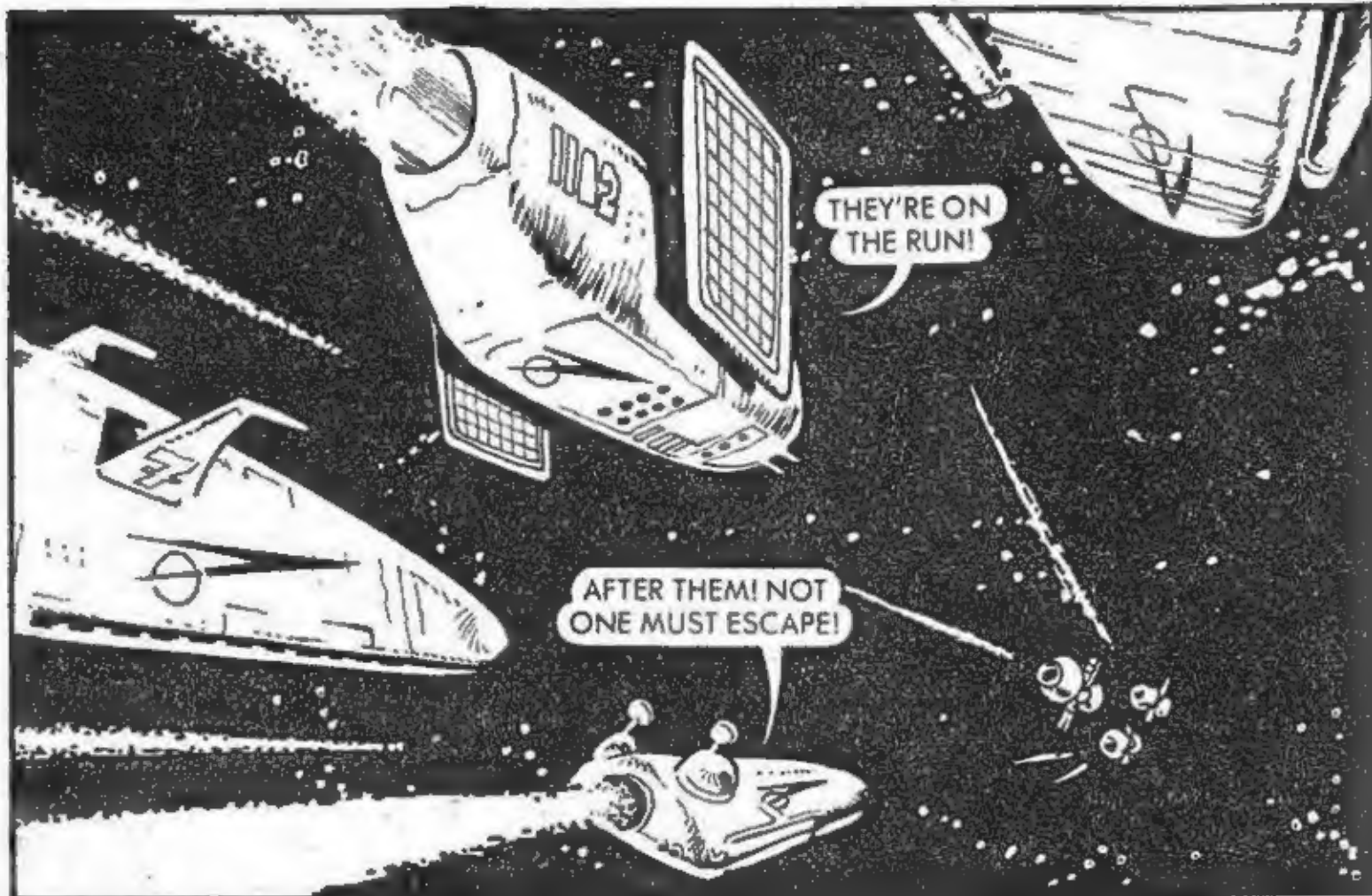
A SAVAGE DOGFIGHT DEVELOPED.



WE MUST CONSERVE OUR FUEL BUT WE CAN ALLOW OURSELVES A LITTLE PART OF THE ACTION.







LYX HELPED TO CLEAR UP POCKETS OF CRUTON RESISTANCE ON FRATRI. WHEN THE FLEET LEFT TO TAKE THE DEFENCELESS CRUTA, HE REJOINED GABON.

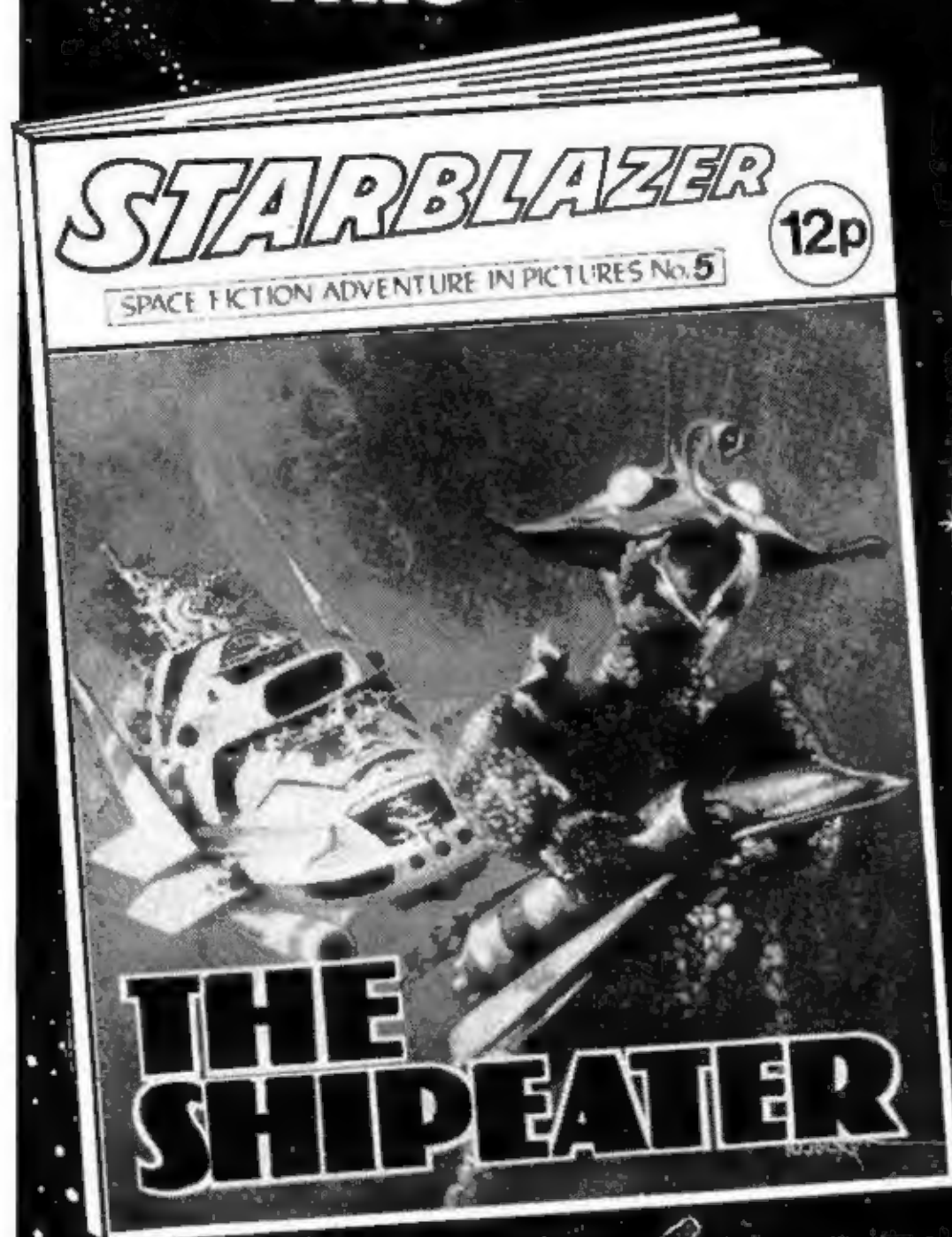
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR RIDDING OF THE CRUTON SLAVERS, LORDS OF THE BARRIER. WE ARE PROUD TO BECOME THE GALATIC UNION'S NEWEST MEMBERS, AND SUPPLY YOU WITH ALL THE ENERGY YOU NEED.

LEAD YOUR PEOPLE WELL, GABON OF THE FRATRI!

A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE GALLANT TRIO WERE HONOURED AT A SPECIAL CEREMONY.

THREE MEN HAD SAVED THE GALACTIC UNION FROM EXTINCTION, BUT THERE WERE MORE ALIEN GALAXIES BENT ON CONQUEST ...

**NOW THAT YOU'VE READ  
THIS**



**DON'T  
FORGET  
THAT  
THERE'S  
ANOTHER  
ONE THIS  
MONTH**

**IT'S ON SALE IN  
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!**



# STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST  
OF SPACE

(4)

Until October 1959, the far side of the Moon was a mystery. By a peculiar quirk of nature, the Moon keeps the same side facing the Earth. The Russians launched Lunik 3, shown here, to reveal the far side. The satellite was placed into an orbit round both Earth and Moon. Photos were taken of the far side, developed and processed to show that the far side was cratered and devoid of the dry, flat areas called seas.

